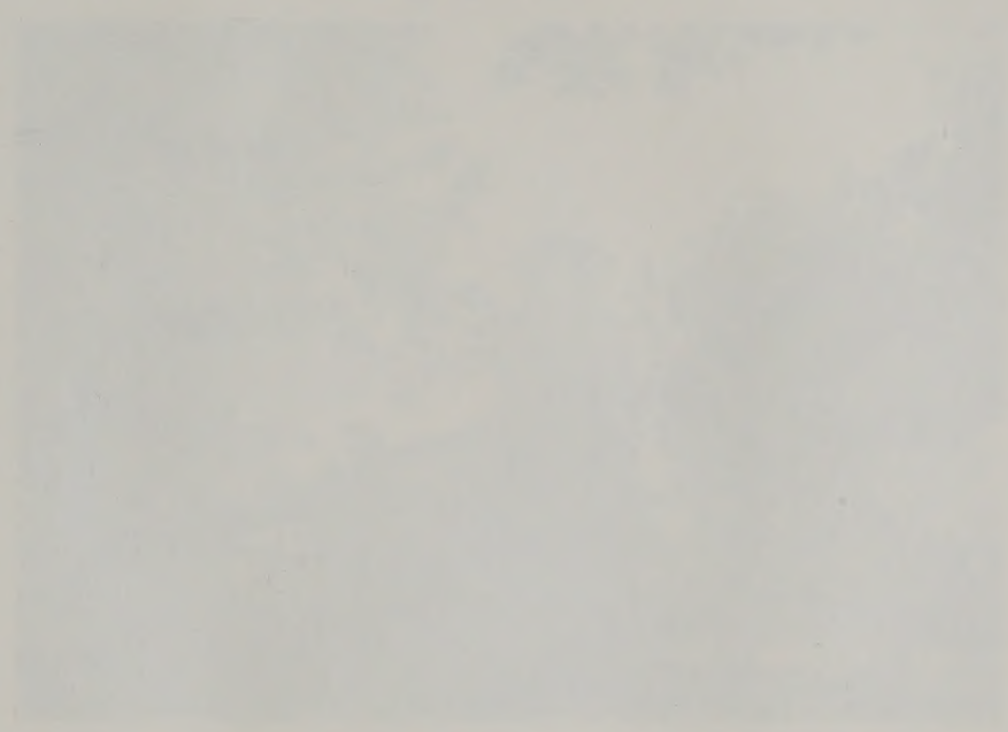


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100 YEARS OF GOD'S GRACE



COKE CITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

160 YEARS OF GOD'S GRACE

1839



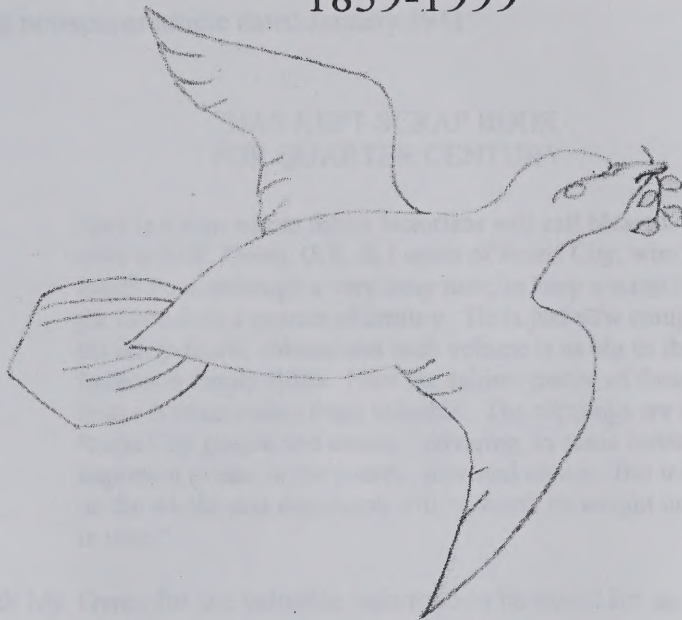
1999

ROME CITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

PREFACE

160 YEARS OF GOD'S GRACE

1839-1999



ROME CITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Mary M. Kinney
Church Historian

PREFACE

This history of the Rome City United Methodist Church has been put together in celebration of our 160th Anniversary. It is not intended to be a complete history of the church, but rather an overview of the church's activities compiled in a factual and anecdotal manner. A great amount of the information was obtained from M. F. Owen's "History of Orange Township" and the thirty-nine volumes of his scrapbooks at the Limberlost Public Library. In Volume 29, I found the following newspaper article dated January 1911:

"HAS KEPT SCRAP BOOK FOR QUARTER CENTURY

Here is a man whom future historians will call blessed. We refer to M.F. Owen, G.R. & I agent of Rome City, who has found time, although a very busy man, to keep a scrap book for more than a quarter of century. He is just now completing his thirty-fourth volume and each volume is as big as the old fashioned family Bible. Now the subject matter of these scrap books is what makes them valuable. The clippings are about Rome City people and events – covering, in some instances, important events in the county, state and nation. But it is local, on the whole, and each book will be worth its weight in gold – in time."

I do thank Mr. Owen for the valuable information he saved for us. I hope that maybe years from now members of the Rome City United Methodist Church will find the information contained herein just as valuable.

A special thanks to Sue Emerson, Betty Hulett, Jane Hampshire, and Lois North for helping me proof and organize the material, and to Bill McKinney for many of the pictures.

Mary McKinney
Church Historian

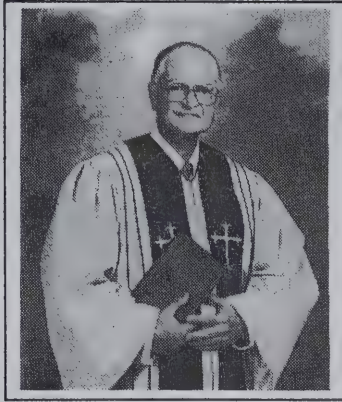
DEDICATION

We dedicate this book to all those courageous men and women who settled Rome City and established the first church in this area. The place they built so that all who believed could come together and share the joys and rewards of serving God was the foundation of the church we have today. The church building has been re-built, moved and re-modeled, but the spirit of devotion and love remains the same. May this spirit of devotion continue throughout future generations so that the Rome City United Methodist Church will continue to grow and serve the community.



ROME CITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1839 - 1999

PASTOR'S COMMENTS



It is a distinct honor for Lois and me to be the fortunate clergy couple pastoring at Rome City United Methodist Church as we celebrate together 160 years of God's grace. This is certainly a grand and historic moment and we can say affirmatively that God has been good all this time.

This milestone in our history calls for thoughtful reflection and praise to God for the faithful ministry of clergy and lay persons who have preceded us. Jesus said, "I have sent you to reap a harvest in a field where you did not work; others worked there, and you profit from their work." Because of their faithfulness and the dedication and vision of the current congregation, it has been my privilege to be the first ordained elder to serve this church as a full-time pastor. Our evangelical forefathers would rejoice to know that their labors are producing a present day harvest. The church is vibrant and growing.

On August 4, 1786, John Wesley wrote, "I do not fear that the Methodists should e'er cease to exist either in Europe or America. But I am afraid, lest they should only exist as a dead sect, having the form of religion without the power. And this undoubtedly will be the case, unless they hold fast both the doctrine, spirit, and discipline with which they first set out."

For the sake of future generations, let it be known that this current congregation which believes the Bible to be the Word of God, is poised to serve in the 21st century; is a "happening" people, involved, committed, diverse, caring and hospitable. It is a people who love music, church suppers, and fellowship. But most importantly, it is a people who love to tell the story of God's redeeming grace. The heart of the church continues to be the winning of people to Christ.

Grace and Peace,
Rev. Dr. Harold T. North

**ROME CITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
160 YEARS OF GOD'S GRACE**

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METHODIST CHURCH IN INDIANA

L. C. Rudolph in his book, "Hoosier Faiths," quotes a brash nineteen year old junior preacher named Peter Cartwright who states in his autobiography:

"It is probable that the first introduction of Methodism in the State of Indiana was in 1802 or 1803. In the fall of 1804, Clark's Grant, or the Illinois Grant, as it was called, which was opposite and north of Louisville, was then included in the Salt River and Shelbyville Circuits, and Brother Benjamin Lakin and myself crossed the Ohio River, and preached at Brothers Robertson's and Prather's. In this grant, we had two classes and splendid revivals of religion; and if my recollection serves me correctly, this Illinois Grant was formed into a Circuit in 1807-08, and Moses Ashworth was appointed to travel it; it was called Silver Creek Circuit. This was the first regular circuit ever formed in the State of Indiana, and composed of one hundred and eighty-eight members.

Mr. Rudolph also quotes Allen Wiley who he indicates provided the best available record of the life of early Methodism. Mr. Wiley's manual for preachers set a very high standard with seven hours of sleep being adequate for any traveling preacher.

"On an average he will need two hours to ride to his appointments, and two more to hold meetings; fifteen minutes in the morning, and the same in the evening to attend family worship, where he may stay, will make half an hour; twenty minutes, three times each day, for private devotion, will make an hour; thirty minutes, three times per diem, for eating, will be one hour and a half; and to the foregoing may be added two hours employed in profitable conversation with the children and others where he may be; all of which will make sixteen hours out of twenty-four, leaving eight to be employed in mental culture, which will be as much time as most constitutions can endure close mental an application, without endangering the health of the body. I have allowed two hours for riding, which however, in fair weather, I consider the best time for learning grammar, or logic,

or any similar study, may be added to the eight, which will make ten to be in every twenty-four, in gaining a good store of general knowledge. Now, we behold the young man with eight hours or more on his hands for valuable use, or the most criminal abuse.

At least two hours in each day ought to be spent in a close attention to Biblical studies; and more, if it be found necessary, to enable the young preacher to bring out of his treasury things new and old. Two hours may be employed, beside the time in riding, for the study of grammar, till that science be acquired. Two hours may be spent in reaching doctrinal, and two in historical and scientific works.”

Methodist circuit preachers rarely retired. They rode as long as they could throw their leg over the horse. Many had repeated farewell trips around their circuit with emotional last sermons at many meetings. Although declining by about ten thousand between the years 1843 and 1847, Indiana Methodism grew after 1848 until by 1860 there were over 96,000 Methodist members in Indiana, organized in four conferences. By the century’s end, the membership had again doubled.



HISTORY OF THE ROME CITY METHODIST CHURCH

EARLY SETTLERS

Although the first white settler in Orange Township is unknown, hunters and trappers were numerous in the early 1800's for the area provided good hunting in its many swamps, forests, and lakes. These early white men provided the connecting link between the Indians and the white settlers who began moving into the area after 1830. Thus, when the covered wagons wound their way north in Indiana, following the crooked paths created by man and animals, the Indians were curious, but friendly. The whites and Pottawattomies lived as neighbors until 1840 when approximately 600 Indians were moved from their encampment on Sylvan Lake to a new land in the west.

Indiana was growing and there was a need for a better and faster means of transportation. At the 1836-37 session of the Indiana Legislature, authorization was given for the construction of a ship canal from Michigan City to Fort Wayne, passing through the townships of Swan, Green, York, and Perry into the Elkhart River east of Rochester. A dam was to be built across a tributary of the Elkhart River at Northport, forming a lake, which would provide a feeder system for the canal. The project was a boom for the local economy. Northport grew and prospered during the rush of work on the feeder dam.

Prosperity was short lived. When Indiana's gravel system of internal improvements collapsed under the pressure of the panic of 1837, and the railroad was able to provide cheaper transportation, the canal was abandoned. Construction of the canal came to a halt in 1840 and the hum of industry at Northport ceased. Even though some of the diggers, contractors, traders, etc. involved with the project purchased property and stayed in the vicinity, many left and the village which was once envisioned as a great city soon fell to decay.

It was during the construction of the Northport feeder dam, however, that Rome City was settled. Many French and Irish workers were employed to work on the project. The Irish were mainly Catholic and the two creeds did not get along well. When progress was made on the north side (Northport), instructions were given to the foreman to divide the gangs and open up work on the south side of the fill. The Frenchmen stayed on the north and the Irish were placed on the south. The latter became dissatisfied with their accommodations and under the leadership of a big Irish subforeman, demanded that they be employed where they could be better accommodated. This resulted in a fight in which the Irish being out numbered, got the worst of it. The foreman (Mr. Francis Avelina) gave instructions "that all on the south side, as they were with the Romans, must do as did the Romans." Thus, the south side came to be known as Rome which name was adopted by the county commissioners when the village was plotted. It was later changed to Rome City because of another town named Rome in the southern part of the state.

Ebenezer Pierce and John C. Mather laid out Rome City as a town in 1839. The original area consisted of 216 lots. Joel Doolittle built the first house and was the first Postmaster. Even though the canal was never finished, Rome City was left with a large lake (Sylvan) and every indication that the town would continue to grow. A woolen mill was established by Bliss, Poole, and Co. in 1855, which employed over 60 employees and was housed in a three-story building. The Rome City Natural Ice Business was started in 1872 by J. C. Geisendorff and Company and reached a large volume of business. During this period, Rome City freight station was quite a busy point. The woolen mill and the ice company later failed and fire destroyed a large grist mill which under the management of John W. Teal and Andrew Axtel had conducted a flourishing business. Thus, Rome City gradually changed from a manufacturing point to a very popular summer resort.

Main Street, Rome City
Early 1900's



Assembly Hotel

Sylvan Lake
Hotel



EARLY CHURCH IN NOBLE COUNTY

Early records indicate that the first sermon preached in Noble County was in the summer of 1832 and was delivered on Perry's Prairie by a Presbyterian minister from South Bend (name unknown). Rev. Robinson of the M.E. Church and Rev. Plumstead and Christopher Cory, Presbyterians, were also preaching in the area at approximately the same time. In 1836, the Presbyterians established the first organized church on Haw Patch, but records are incomplete as to whether this was in Noble or LaGrange County. Members of the church apparently lived in both counties and services were held at either William McConnell's in LaGrange or Isaac Cavin's and Seymour Moses' in Noble. The first building built in Noble County for both church and school was a log cabin near where Salem Chapel now stands.

FIRST CHURCH IN ORANGE TOWNSHIP

The first church in Orange Township was a combined church and schoolhouse built at Northport by the Presbyterians and Methodists in 1839. Many turned out to help build the structure with the understanding that both churches were to use the building when it was not being occupied for school purposes. Rev. Cory of Lima was the Presbyterian minister and Rev. Hall¹ served the Methodists. "These men were the typical backwoods ministers, possessing great enthusiasm in their calling and constitutions capable of sustaining any amount of hardship and exposure. They traveled on long circuits, preaching to pioneer assemblies every day of the week, and completed the circuit at the end of the month. In 1841, one of the largest revivals ever had in the township was instituted and conducted by these men. Almost every person in the neighborhood was converted and the excitement spread to more distant localities. Boys and girls were

¹ In the History of the Rome City Methodist Church received from the North Indiana Conference, it indicated that there is no record of a Methodist minister by the name of Hall serving at this time. It is probable that Rev. Hall was not a Methodist at all but merely employed by the Methodists. There was a Rev. H.J. Hall, a Baptist minister from Chicago, employed by the LaGrange County Bible Society at that time.

converted and prostrated by the power. Speaking meetings were organized at private dwellings, and all – old and young – were called upon to tell their religious experience. Mr. Shears was one of the early church leaders.”² Although the school was re-located, he churches continued to use the building at Northport for a number of years.

ROME CITY

The first church for the Rome City Methodist congregation was constructed on lot #48 at the corner of the present Martin and Grant Streets. George Gale had purchased building lots #6 and #7 and sold them to John Teal in 1864. Mr. Teal plotted this area into the Teal Addition consisting of 48 lots and sold lot #48 in 1869 for the construction of a church building. This location is just east of the present Rome City school ball field. There are no records of the actual organization and charter membership of the Methodist Church in Rome City and all information available shows that this building was dedicated as a Union Church. This is substantiated by the fact that John W. Teal, not a Methodist, contributed a considerable amount of money for the construction and the building was dedicated to church work and to God by Professor Swain of the Free Church, Chicago. A Union Sabbath School was apparently maintained in the church until June 1876. After that, it was used exclusively as a M.E. Sunday School.

There also seems to be an apparent lack of a Methodist minister serving the Rome City area from Rev. James Hutchinson, 1867-1868, to Rev. Samuel C.C. Miller, 1871-1872. M. F. Owen in his “History of Orange Township” states: “It matters not to these good people of the past or coming posterity, what the circumstances. We have a Methodist Episcopal Church organization and long may it continue to prosper to the Glory of God and the Church.”

² Alvord, Samuel E., ALVORD’S HISTORY OF NOBLE COUNTY, B.F. Bowen Publisher, 1902,p205

Thirteen years later in 1882, a Quit Claim Deed for Lot #64 was conveyed to George Brotheroul, Robert Moore, Anario Kesler, Wm. Hitchcock, and Wm. Green for the sum of \$100. The conveyance was made to the above named Trustees for the Methodist Episcopal Church, and to their successors, to be kept, maintained, and disposed as a place of Divine Worship, subject to the Discipline of the Church. Although some records indicate the purchase was made from Susannah Dixon, the deed was conveyed from Henry Hamlin, Anna Hamlin, Horace Hamlin, Samilda Hamlin, and others. Mr. Owens indicates in his writing that this site was on the northwest corner opposite the Public Square. Reverend Newton Wray was pastor during this time.

In 1901, under the ministry of Rev. W. R. Wones, the M. E. Church building was raised and a basement excavated so that a banquet hall and kitchen could be included. At the same time, a furnace and an acetylene lighting plant were installed. During the summer of 1914, electric lights were installed

In 1956, under the leadership of Reverend Harold Thrasher, the men of the church built an addition to the south end of the original structure, which included Sunday school classrooms, a pastor's office, and additional basement space.

Plans were formulated in 1985 for an addition, which not only would include a fellowship hall, but a new, much larger kitchen. This was completed and dedicated on September 7th 1986. Stephen Ailes was minister at this time.

In 1995, under the leadership of Pastor Harold North, the original basement area was remodeled to accommodate the Rome City Day Care, a building was purchased on Front Street to house the "Helping Hands," and the property east of the church was purchased to provide additional parking and an area for future expansion.

Rome City United Methodist Church continues to grow!

CELEBRATING 150 YEARS OF SHARING GOD'S LOVE 1839 – 1989

The following article appears in The News-Sun on Tuesday, October 3, 1989 – written by Margaret Tarney.

Rome City – On Sunday, October 8, members of Rome City United Methodist Church will mark the 150th anniversary of the church with special activities. Included in the plans will be a visit from the district superintendent during the regular Sunday church service.

At 1 p.m., a carry-in dinner will be held. At that time pictures and memorabilia will be displayed for members, former members, former pastors and friends of the church to enjoy.

There will be Amish buggies at the church to transport members to Northport Road where the first church and school was built. There will be a short memorial service at the site.

The present church was originally built near the ball diamond in Rome City, and moved to its present location.

The church, which was remodeled several years ago, is headquarters for a Boy Scout troop, which the church sponsors, and Orange Township Helping Hands, a community service group, which assists the needy.

Gordon Cherrington, chairman of the anniversary committee, says they are encouraging people to dress in costume for the day. And to make it more like it was 150 years ago, the men will be seated on one side of the church with the women on the other side for Sunday services.

According to Cherrington, the year 1839 was a fine one for the area around Rome City. Indiana had become a state in 1816 just 23 years earlier, and Noble County, organized in 1836, was three years old.

He said that land could be bought for \$1.25 an acre from the government, or for \$2.50 to \$5 from private individuals. There was no need for

fences and pigs and cattle were allowed to roam free. The Indians didn't move West until a year and a half later, but were far from hostile.

Northport had a store, a hotel and tannery with approximately 12 families. Together they started a combined school/church. The building was made of logs and became the first church in the area for the Presbyterians and the Methodists.

One of the first ministers, according to Cherrington, was Rev. Emanuel Hall, who served area Methodists until 1875.

This time was a period of growth for the area, although wages were only 50 cents per day or a man and team could earn \$1.50 per day.

The dike and dam creating Sylvan Lake were built about this time to provide water for the canal system.

Rome City grew as Northport dwindled and an early canal commission platting of Rome City offered property or lots for \$5 "to the first society that would build a good house on it."

The Methodists and United Brethren did just that in 1869 and the present church was built at that time. The pastor, said Cherrington, was Rev. J.H. Hutchinson.

The Civil War had been an unusually trying time for Noble County, as not all of the citizens were solidly pro-Union. Doubtless the new church helped the worshippers to regain their lives and forgive neighbors who might not have agreed with them politically.

In 1882, with Rev. Newton Wray, the building was moved to its present site on Washington Street in Rome City, where several improvements have been made over the years.

Rome City has been a hub of religious activity over the years and the church has

remained a solid influence for the Christian faith in the community.

The latest improvement to the church has been the addition of a fellowship hall, which has been useful for many area and church activities.

The Rome City United Methodist Church, under the guidance of its former pastor, Rev. Steven Ailes, and present pastor, Rev. Gary Stees, is proud and humble of its accomplishments of the first 150 years and is looking forward, with God's help, to the next 150 years.



1989 Circuit Riders – Mike Antal and Bruce Slusher



Travel in Old Style -- Some of the members of Rome City United Methodist Church traveled from the church to the site of the original church on Northport Road Sunday for a special service in horse-drawn buggies. The buggies were on loan from area Amish farmers who did the driving. The trek was in celebration of the church's 150th anniversary. Pictured in old-fashioned costumes from left are Nellie Goings, Joyce Pease, Marty Donat, Gail Stees, Viola Walker, Tonya Antal and Betty Hulett. Several church services and a carry-in dinner Sunday marked the anniversary. (News-Sun photo by Margaret Tarney)

MEMORIES FROM FORMER PASTORS

1989

“**Y**our letter of invitation to your 150th anniversary celebration came while we were on a fall vacation. It got set aside among other matters on our return. Thus, the lateness in my reply. Marge and I are disappointed that we will not be able to join you for your big day, but other commitments make it impossible for us to be with you. Even though we will not be present in body we will be with you in spirit. Our family recalls many happy days when we lived “up North” and relish the many friendships that we established there. Memories of our time there are too numerous to mention. Just ask Don Goings what a pastor does when he walks in to conduct worship and looking up all he can see if a lavishly decorated Christmas tree right in front of the pulpit. We now have seven lovely grandchildren and spend our spare time planning the house we are going to build for our retirement. Give our best regards to the people at Rome City and know that we pray for God’s richest blessings upon each of you.” **Floyd E. Blake 1961-1964**

“**W**e were happy to receive your invitation to the celebration of your 150 years. We will not be able to come because of illness. My oldest son is a United Methodist minister. He has his Doctorate degree from Drew University. He is pastor of Mt. Olivet United Methodist in Dearborn, Michigan. He went with me to Rome City church when he was about 4 years old. I asked Mrs. Milner to keep him on the piano bench during the song service. We started to sing, and Haldon jumped off the bench and onto the altar rail. He rode the altar rail like it was a horse. The congregation stopped singing. I asked Mrs. Milner to keep him again. The service was continued and Haldon was good the rest of our worship service.” **Rev. Dale Ferris 1944-1946**

“It was just 50 years ago last April that I came to Rome City, then a part of the Wawaka-Brimfield-Rome City Circuit. I was a green young preacher, just starting my first assignment. I know I made many blunders, for I was starting without any formal training for the pastoral ministry, coming directly from high school teaching. My first funeral service which I conducted was for a 11 year old girl in Brimfield when I had only attended three other funerals in many years. Just as we started the service the funeral director’s assistant dropped dead from a heart attack.

I recall with deep appreciation the many times I stopped in the home of George and Emma Milnor, old faithful workers in the church, and sought their advise and counsel concerning matters which I did not know how to handle. I remember following my very first Sunday there was a lady who was introducing me to everyone there and was telling me something about them. I thought to myself here is someone who is going to be a big help to me. But when I mentioned this to her, she said, ‘OH! I’m not a member here; I’m from Washington,D.C. and am just vacationing here.’

I always was an admirer of Gene Stratton Porter and her books. So when I came to Rome City and learned that the custodian of her home had some affiliation with our church, I decided to make a pastoral call. While there he asked if I would like a tour of her home and of course I said I would. When we finished the tour, he said, ‘That will be 50 cents.’ I was just lucky to have it.

I guess the only persons in the church we really know anymore are Don and Nellie Goings. They were leaders in our youth work at Wawaka, and have remained good friends all these years.” Rev. Paul Smith 1939-1941

MINISTERS

- 1839 LaGrange Circuit Pastors:
 Wade Posey, Lewis Allen, Enoch Holdstock,
 C.W. Miller, J.C. Medsker, W.J. Forbes,
 Levantus Doud, William Stonex, E.S. Blue,
 W.W. Monson, J.H. Bruce
- 1849 Albion Circuit Pastors:
 Emanuel Hall, Charles Ketcham, William Blake,
 D.B. Clary, M.M. Haun, H. Chadeayne,
 S.T. Camp, T. Barnett, J.H. Hutchinson,
 William Palmer, J.P. Nash, Isaac Ayers,
 Thomas Sells
- 1863 Wolcottville Circuit Organized: (Rome City, Wawaka,
 Tamarack, E. Springfield, South Milford, Brushy Prairie)
- 1863 Emanuel Hall (2nd Term as Pastor)
- 1866 D.P. Hartman
- 1868 Cornelius Hover
- 1869 J. H. Hutchinson (2nd Term as Pastor)
- 1871 Samuel C.C. Miller
- 1873 E.S. Preston
- 1874 Emanuel Hall (3rd Term as Pastor)
- 1876 W.M. Van Slyke
- 1879 C. King
- 1882 Newton Wray
- 1884 C.H. Wilkinson
- 1887 I.J. Bicknell
- 1889 A.S. Preston

1891	M. H. Smith
1892	T.F. Frech
1893	Charles H. Murray
1894	Leander E. Knox
1896	John T. Fetto
1898	Eli B. Westhafer
1900	William R. Wones
1904	George W. Bailor
1907	Howard D. Wright
1908	William M. Hollopeter
1911	John F. Bailey
1913	Ivan R. Godwin
1915	J. Charles Woodruff
1916	W.T. Daly
1919	Rome City Methodist Headed a Circuit With Custer (Helmer). J. H. Royer
1921	Rome City Methodist on a Circuit with E. Springfield and Plato. R.J. Hutsinpillar
1924	Rome City Methodist Back on a Circuit with Wolcottville. J.O. Hochstedler
1927	Thurman Mott
1930	Fred D. Wilde
1934	Rome City Methodist on a Circuit With Wawaka and Brimfield Garry Browne

1934 Rome City Methodist on a Circuit
With Wawaka and Brimfield
Garry Browne

1938 C.W. Montgomery

1939 Paul Smith

1941 C.A. Mills

1942 Maurice Beery

1943 Homer Van Buren

1944 W. Dale Ferris

1946 Richard Bowersox

1947 Jeppe E. Jensen (4 Months)

1948 Rome City Methodist Back on a Circuit
With Wolcottville. V.E. Stoner

1953 Harold M. Thrasher

1957 Ralph Davison

1961 Floyd Blake

1964 Dixon Burkdoll

1967 Robert Trueblood

1969 William Moody

1974 Elwood Walker

1977 Gerald Hewson

1986 Steven N. Ailes

1989 Gary M. Stees

1991 Rome City Became a Single Parish

1994 Harold North



Robert D. Trueblood



Rev. Floyd E. Blake (left) accepts
torch from Rev. Jesse W. Fox (right).
Bishop Raines watches.

REPORT WOLCOTTVILLE CHARGE FROM APRIL 1, 1900 TO APRIL 1, 1905

Joined by letter -----	41
Dismissed by letter -----	36
Deceased -----	6
Received on Probation -----	52
Received from Probation -----	62
Increase in full membership -----	64
Sermons preached -----	594
Addresses -----	20
Funerals preached -----	54
Weddings -----	22
Visits -----	2135
Miles traveled -----	16647
Pages read -----	20826

Money raised for building and	
Repairing at Rome City -----	2800
Building cement walk -----	\$85
Building porch, painting and repairs	
On church and parsonage -----	\$225
Benevolences -----	\$1913
Pastors salary -----	\$2800
Presiding Elder -----	\$272
Bishops -----	\$45
Expenses of Sunday Schools -----	\$489
Expenses of Churches -----	\$738

Total ----- \$9367

RECEIVED FOR MY PART IN WORK

Salary -----	\$2800
Donations -----	\$160
Weddings -----	\$85
Funerals -----	<u>\$117</u>

Total receipts ----- \$3162

EXPENSES

Cash -----	\$3502
Donations -----	<u>\$160</u>

Total Expenses ----- \$3662
Expenses more than receipts ----- \$500

Out of this expense have paid

Benevolences as follows:

Missions -----	\$60
Conference Claimants -----	\$24
Education -----	\$14
Church Extension -----	\$9
Freedmans Aid -----	\$7
Sunday School Union -----	\$2
Tract cause -----	\$2
American Bible Society -----	\$3
Sunday Schools -----	\$5
Epworth and Junior Leagues -----	\$8
Rome City Church -----	\$35
Other causes -----	<u>\$50</u>

Total Benevolences ----- \$219

THIS YEAR'S BENEVOLENCES

The total amount of Benevolences apportioned this charge for this conference year are \$366. The amount of Benevolences will be raised in full, the first time in the history of the charge.

W. R. WONES,

Pastor

March 3, 1957 PASTOR'S REPORT

“Rome City Lay Leader, Allen Emerson presides at the Morning Worship every other Sunday and leads in other activities. This church has 60 Together subscriptions. The Annex is nearing completion. Whenever church people ‘work together with God’ the Church prospers; when they fail, it fails.” **Harold M. Thrasher, Pastor-in-Charge.**

March 9, 1958 PASTOR'S REPORT

“At the 114 session of the North Indiana Annual Conference held at Wabash last May, we received our appointment to the Wolcottville – Rome City Methodist Churches. Dr. Paulen, the District Superintendent of the Warsaw District and your former pastor and many other pastors who have served these churches have known each other for years. Ours is a great fellowship. We enter into each other's labors. ‘One has planted, another watered, but it is always God who gives the increase.’ We were soon made welcome by the people on this charge. A reception was held at the Rome City Church, well represented by the official members and families of both churches. This welcome has grown through the months. There has been a spirit of cooperation among the people.”
Rev. Ralph E. Davison, Pastor

February 26, 1962 PASTOR'S REPORT

“It is indeed impossible to try to put down how I feel as I report to this Fourth Quarterly Conference. I have been very appreciative of the way you have received the Blakes as your parsonage family this year. We moved in last summer to find ourselves right in the middle of Vacation Church School. Things didn't slow down one bit from then on. This year has been one of contrasts and extremes. I have been both elated and dismayed. It has been a year that has been both rewarding and disappointing. I have been encouraged at times and discouraged at others. We have much work to do in this parish.” **Rev. Floyd E. Blake, Pastor**

March 16, 1964 PASTOR'S REPORT

“This is the third report I have made to the Fourth Quarterly Conference of this Parish. As I contemplated what I would and should say I looked back over the previous reports I have made. I take heart as I reflect on our three years together. We have seen much accomplished for the Kingdom. I would be quick to add that we have not as yet ushered in the Kingdom of God in all of its ramifications, but, we have lifted a fair share of the load of such a project.” **Rev. Floyd E. Blake, Pastor**

April 29, 1965 PASTOR'S REPORT

“Many at Rome City have expressed their concern at the attendance. They feel the church attendance should average between 100 and 125. Considering the fact that there are only two Protestant churches in Rome City, this goal does not sound unreasonable. Rome City has

installed new lights in the sanctuary, redecorated the sanctuary, drilled a new well, refinished half of the pews, and installed a new dorsal curtain. The rest of the pews are to be refinished and also the floors of the sanctuary. We are indeed proud of the 'New Look' of our church." **Rev. Dixon Burkdoll, Pastor**

March 15, 1966 PASTOR'S REPORT

"In this our second report, we feel that we have mixed emotions about the year that has elapsed since our last report. We have experienced a great many good times among the people of the churches in Family Fellowships, presiding at the weddings of the children and fellowshiping in the homes. However, there were the sad times when people were seriously ill, when family crises hung in the balance. There were the people who turned their backs on the church, and there were the funerals. These are the times when I've gotten to really know the churches and the people in them. Rome City has continued to work on the sanctuary pews and the gift of a new piano has enriched the morning worship services as well as the looks of the church. All of these improvement help to bring people into the church." **Rev. Dixon Burkdoll, Pastor**

March 26, 1968 THE METHODIST TIDINGS PASTOR'S REPORT

Next let us consider the Rome City Church. It is evident, of course, that the community and setting for this church is entirely different from the Wolcottville Church. For this reason, the emphasis will be somewhat different. The most striking reality that faces this church is this: Here is a community of some 1300 souls with no resident pastor and only two small churches. What a wonderful mission field!! Here is the chance to work as a missionary without enduring the hardships that we ordinarily see the foreign missionary enduring. However, we can achieve desired results of seeing people led to the Savior and into our church. **Rev. Robert Trueblood**

January 22, 1987 LETTER TO CONGREGATION

We are sending this letter and these reports in a special letter to better inform you of what has been happening in the congregation and how we need your support in the coming year. In case you are not aware, we have been experiencing a consistent 15-20% increase in our attendance on Sunday mornings as compared to a year ago. Our family nights have been a great source of support and fellowship. We have had numerous successes in our Ice Cream Social, our new building consecration, our re-instituted Turkey Supper and the recent Christmas Eve Service. A parish Bible Study during Advent was well attended and the overall spirit is one of optimism and joy in our ministry for Christ in Rome City. **Rev. Steven N Ailes**

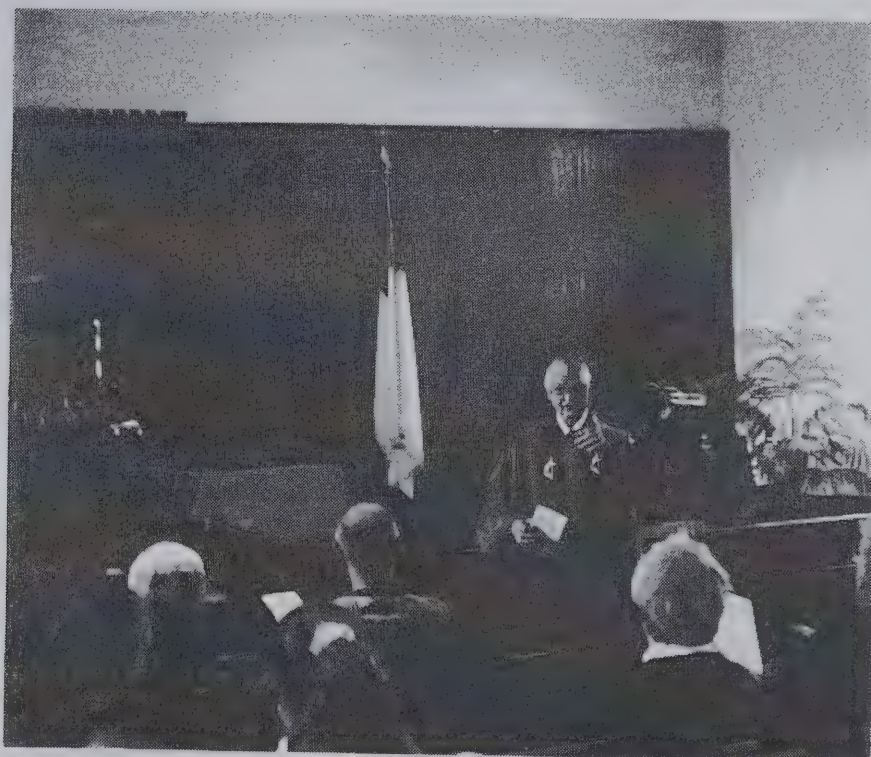
WORSHIP SERVICE
1999

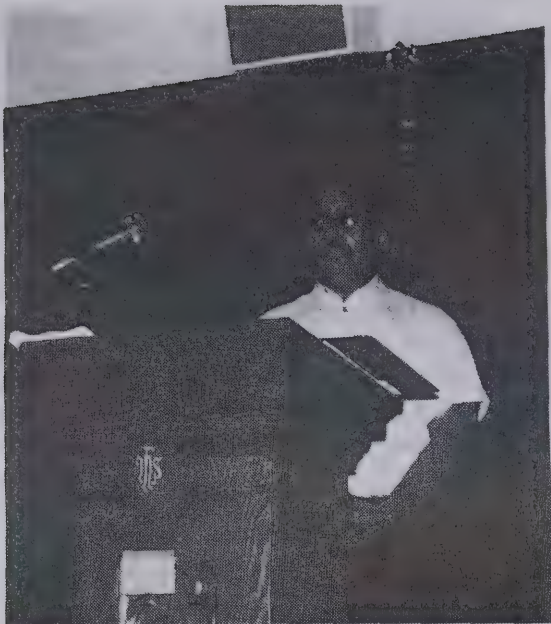
Sunday School at 9:00 a.m.
Worship at 8 a.m. & 10 a.m.

<i>Organists</i>	<i>Lucinda Beall and Eunice Cords</i>
<i>Pianists</i>	<i>Lois North and Lucinda Beall</i>
<i>Choir Director</i>	<i>Eunice Cords</i>
<i>Acolytes</i>	<i>Justin Beall & Brandon Perkins</i>
<i>Ushers</i>	<i>John Pierce, Bob Kelley and Jim Abbs</i>
<i>Nursery Sitter</i>	<i>Ferri Perkins</i>

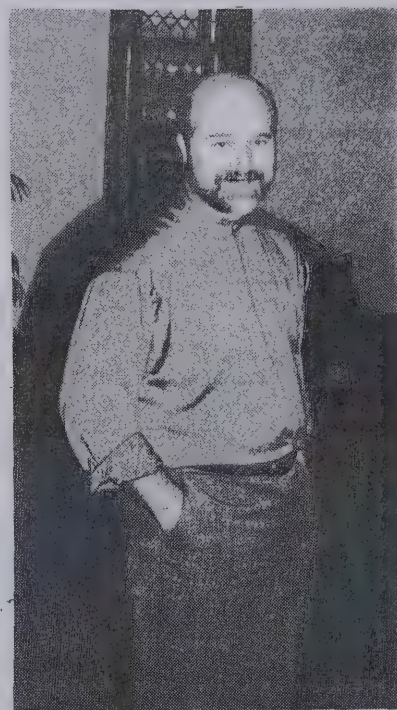
Tuesday – Bible Study at 10 a.m.
Thursday – Bible Study at 7 p.m.
Choir Practice at 8 p.m.

Average Attendance – 129
Weekly Budget ---- \$1752





Mike Antal, Chairman Administrative Council



Mike McKinney, Evangelism Coordinator



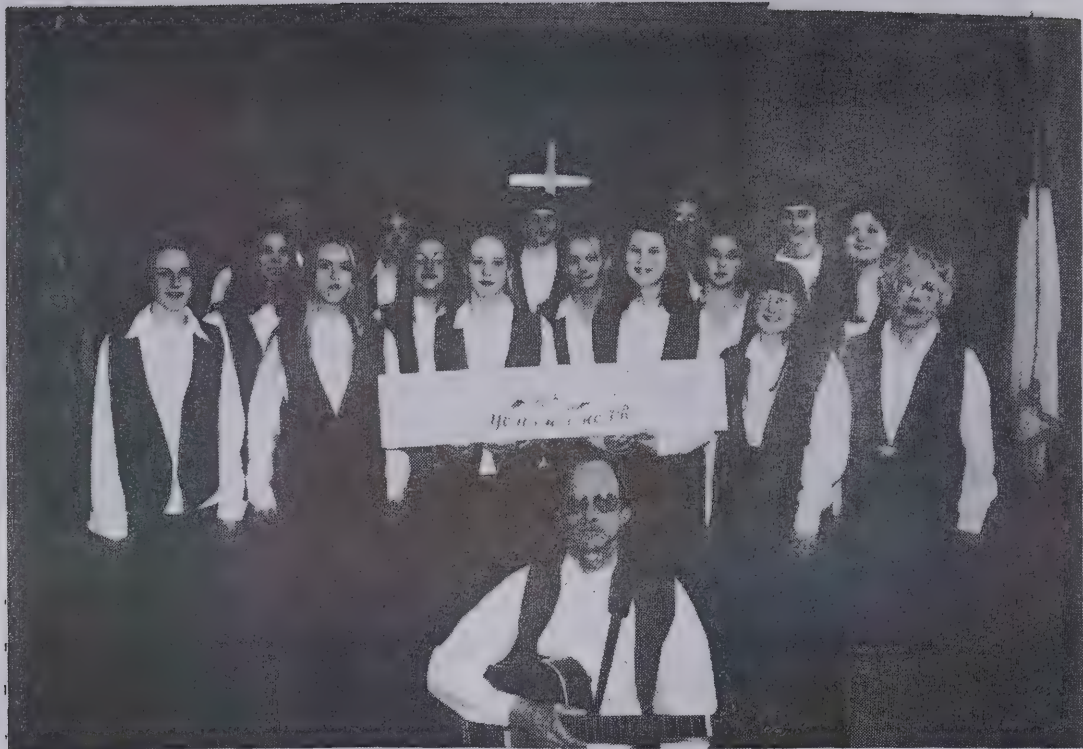
Sue Emerson, Church Secretary



Eunice Cords, Director, and the Church Choir



Last Supper Reenactment on Maundy Thursday
 Mike McKinney, Chad Leathers, Greg Caldwell, Dennis McClellan
 Kane Leathers, John Pierce, Don Goings, John Snyder, Mike Thompson, Mark Donley



The "One Voice Youth Choir, presented its first public concert on Sunday, March 14, 1999, at Rome City United Methodist Church. Members of the choir were Greg Grobis, Amanda Shepherd and Becky Metz of Prairie Heights High School; Michael Szapkiw and Jenessa Wainwright of Lakeland High School; Jennifer Pelfrey, Jennifer Schlabach and Jenae Wainwright of Lakeland Middle School; Matt Shull and Amanda Sloan of East Noble High School; Jon North, Jeni Shull and Loni Perkins of Rome City Middle School; and Abby Sloan and Ben Rittenhouse of Avilla Middle School. The choir is directed by John Snyder and Eunice Cords

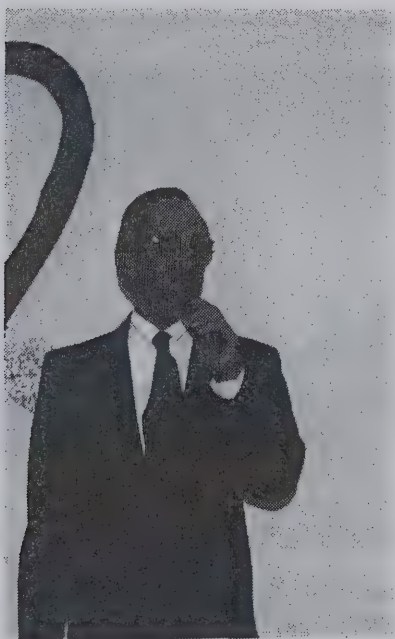
SWEETHEART SUNDAY



The Gloraires Quartet – Shirley Dennis,
Karen Dennis, Sue Emerson, Eunice Cords



Nikki Steider and Lee Kreigh



John Snyder



Eunice and Don Cords, Pastor Harold
and Lois North

BIBLE STUDY



Don Goings, Lois North, Pastor Harold North, Mary McKinney



Jim Small, Don Cords, Barbara Hose, Betty Adair, Don Goings, Mike McKinney, Pastor Harold North, Janet Small

SUNDAY SCHOOL

1892

Report of Rome City M.E.S.S.

Average Attendance of Scholars 48
Average Attendance of Officers and Teachers 14
Visitors During Year 83
Average For School 64

Amount of Money on Hand Jan. 1, '92 \$6.60
Amount of Money Received \$43.77
Total \$50.37

Average Collection \$.88
Expenses \$40.54
Amount of Treasury Jan. 1, '93 \$9.83

Amount of Birthday Money Received \$3.48
All of which was expended for Christmas.

G.E. Milnor, Secretary

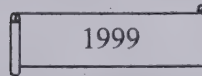
Officers of the M.E.S.S.

E. Broughton, Supt.
Dora Tate, Asst. Supt.
Laura Planch, Secretary
John Jones, Asst. Secretary
Geo. E. Milnor, Treasurer
Myra Smurr, Organist
Jessie Owen, Asst. Organist
E. Scheffler, Chorister
Clara Planch, Librarian
Grace Smurr, Librarian
D. Owen, Artist

Teachers

Robert Moore
Mrs. Hardendorf
Mr. Hardendorf
Dora Tate
Mrs. N. Moore
Stella Cobbs
Mrs. Sheffler
Mrs. Smurr
Mable Fisher
Miss Shounds
Mrs. Milnor
Mrs. Appelmann

Sunday School



Average Attendance

1996 ---- 28

1997 ---- 51

1998 ---- 48

Teachers and Classes

Nursery		Terri Perkins
Pre-School & Kdg.		Barbara Hose Twink Pierce
Grades 1-2		Jayne Shull Patti Leathers
Grades 3-4-5		Jane McClellan Nancy Bruce
Grades 6-7-8		Chuck Shull Mike Bruce
Grades 9-12		Jim & Tina Wilkinson Stacy Snyder
"Singles/ Adults"		Mark Donley Mike Thompson
"Live Wires"		Treva DeWitt Lawrence Foote
"The Salts Class"		Don Goings Eunice Cords

"COME TO THE STORY TELLING TREE"

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

1998

The theme for Rome City United Methodist Church's Vacation Bible School held August 2 through August 6, 1998, was "Come to the Story Telling Tree." It was from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. nightly for children ages 4 through 5th grade. There were craft shows, recreation, music, puppet shows and many other activities. A village marketplace of craft shops included a tin shop, a Rocky Inn, The Bird House Inn, Bannerville, a carpenter shop, a seed granary and many more. Bible costumes were worn by all. A record number of students (114) attended.



VBS STAFF – Rome City United Methodist Church members who participated in Vacation Bible School at the church are shown here. From left in the first row are Chelsea Caldwell, Brandon Perkins, Stephanie Grigsby, Amber Perkins, Kane Leathers and Don Goings. In the second row from the left are Jean Lewis, Stacey Snyder, Barb Hose, Pastor Harold North, Monna Thompson, Betty Hulett, Terri Perkins, Mark Donley. (Photo by Joe Potter)

Good News

**@ gospelrock
Vacation Bible School
1999**

The 1999 Bible School held at Rome City United Methodist Church was from July 18 thru July 22 – 6:30 to 8:30. A total of 66 children, 21 adult teachers, and 10 youth helpers took part in the activities based on the theme, “Good News @ Gospel Rock”. The mission project was the United Methodist Children’s Work at Henderson Settlement, Kentucky, and \$94.64 was collected and donated.



HELPING HANDS



In 1987, the Lions Club of Rome City invited all churches in Orange Township to meet with them to determine how best to help the needy in our area. Several churches sent representatives and it was through this effort, the Orange Township Helping Hands as it exists today was organized.

Located in the basement of the Rome City United Methodist Church for several years, Helping Hands moved to its present location on Front Street in 1995. Loyal volunteers such as Ab and Betty Wilson, Don Goings, Virginia Rawles, Monna Thompson, Jane Schenley, Mary Klein, have spent many hours gathering food and sorting clothing for distribution. Its doors are open every Thursday from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m.

Through contributions from businesses, clubs, associations, and individuals, Helping Hands provides food and clothing without question to anyone living in Orange Township. With help from St. Gaspar's Catholic Church, Brimfield and Wolcottville United Methodist, Rome City United Methodist Church, through Helping Hands, serves about 50 families at various times throughout the year, some only a few times and some every other week. As many as 80 families are served during the holidays.

SWINGING SENIORS



On February 26, 1998, seventeen (17) senior citizens of Rome City United Methodist Church met to organize a monthly meeting for those 55 years and older. They picked the name “Swinging Seniors” and decided to meet the first Thursday of each month for a meeting, program and lunch. Fees were originally set at \$3.00 per month and then raised to \$4.00. They enjoyed a variety of speakers during their meetings and a trip to both Sauders Village in Archbold, Ohio and Das Essenhaus in Middlebury, Indiana.

Membership grew each month and there are now thirty-five (35) Swinging Seniors. Several “eat-outs” and field trips have been planned for their 1999 schedule.

1998 – 1999 Swinging Seniors Officers

President	Barbara Hose
Vice-President	Dorothy Van Winkle
Secretary	Mary Martha Strawser
Treasurer	Don Cords
Calling Chairman	Jo Leatherman
Members at Large	Vi Pence & Marley Miller
Birthday Chairman	Dorothy Van Winkle
Program/Education	Jean Lewis
Church Pastor	Harold North



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



Purpose

The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship, and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

In the 1800's the dedicated women of the Rome City Methodist Episcopal Church came together and formed the Ladies' Aid Society. Early records indicate that the Ladies Aid Society through such fund raisers as strawberry festivals, oyster dinners, bake sales, ice cream socials, etc. were able to provide money not only for the day-to-day activities of the church, but also special projects and repairs.

In 1940, after much debate and hesitation, the Ladies Aid Society became the Women's Society of Christian Service. This allowed the self-contained group in individual churches to move into a worldwide approach in the area of mission outreach. Now, in addition to financially providing assistance in their own church, the Rome City women began contributing money to other missions.

Then a third name change occurred in 1974 when the Women's Society of Christian Service (WSCS) became the organization that we have today – United Methodist Women (UMW).

Like their early predecessors, the women of the Rome City United Methodist Church continue to raise money to help the church and the people of our community. Some projects have been ongoing for years. The Turkey Supper in

November was initiated many years ago, discontinued because of lack of facilities for several years, and then re-established after the Fellowship Hall was completed in 1986. Another project that had been ongoing for many years and discontinued in 1997 was the Yard Sale. Items were collected throughout the year and stored in Goings' garage where they were sorted, organized and sold during three days in August. Other projects include:

1. Ice Cream Social (August)
2. Rome City Alumni Dinner (June)
3. Avon Dinner (December)
4. Gene Stratton Porter Association Dinner (May)
5. Lions Club Dinner (1st & 3rd Wednesdays)

1999 OFFICERS

Co-Presidents -----	Sue Emerson
	Betty Hulett
Vice-President -----	June Minar
Secretary -----	Mary McKinney
Treasurer -----	Joyce Pease

Meeting: 7:00 Second Wednesday of Every Month

The UMW Budget for 1999 included the following:

Gifts	Mission Pledge
Speakers & Programs	Lucille Raines
Loving Care	Youth Projects
Missionaries Through Church	School of Christian Mission
Thank Offering	Special Mission Recognition
Day of Prayer/Self Denial	Gift in Memory
Literature	Jewel of a Woman
Noble House	
Youth for Christ	
Bashor Home	
Miscellaneous	



Ladies of the Church – Date and location Unknown. Some pictured are Alta Flint, Faye Chapman, Marguerite Ritchie, Nellie Goings, Margretta Lower, Jeanine Morrison, Faye Steinbarger, Mrs. Shannon, Mrs. Tipton,



Date and Location Unknown. Some pictured are Alta Flint, Margretta Lower, Mildred Fox, Faye Steinbarger

WOMEN AT WORK



Cranberries – a must for the turkey supper, but lots of work as Sue Emerson demonstrates while co-workers tend to other tasks.



June Minar prepares the salt and pepper for each table.



ROME CITY CHURCH TO HOLD ANNUAL TURKEY SUPPER. The Methodist Women take a break from preparations for the turkey supper. Seated left to right: Nellie Goings, Betty Stewart, Betty Hulett. Standing, from left, June Minar, Mildred Hamlet, Katie Moody, Mary McKinney, Jo Leatherman. (K'ville News Sun, Nov. 3, 1995)



Betty Adair receives the UMW 1998 Woman of the Year Award as President Jane Hampshire and Pastor Harold North look on.



Some Rome City United Methodist Church members who helped organize the church's annual Ice Cream Social are shown here. From left to right in the top row are Jean Lewis, Betty Hulett and Sue Fuentes. From left in the second row are Monna Lou Thompson, Twink Pierce and Melissa Fuentes. From left in the bottom row are Amber McClellan, Matt Shull and Kane Leathers. (August 1998)



John Pierce and Gene Holcomb crush ice to make ice cream while Sue Emerson (in background) gives directions. (August 1997)



United Methodist Women's Meeting April 1999

Left to right: Joyce Peace, Sue Emerson, Betty Adair, Helen Pease, Virginia Rawles, Dorothy Van Winkle, Betty Stewart, Jean Lewis, Mary McKinney, Barbara Hose, Betty Wilson, Lois North, Guest Speaker for the evening, Patsy Craig.

IN MEMORY OF NELLIE

On January 17, 1999, Nellie Goings stepped on the shores of heaven and took God's hand. For over 47 years, Nellie faithfully served the Rome City United Methodist Church, and we have been truly blessed. Her contributions to the UMW, to the church, and to the lives of so many are too numerous to count and her death created a great vacancy, both in our church and our hearts. Nellie died knowing that many would come forward to continue her work in the church and that the emptiness in our hearts would be filled with the memories she left behind.



Be Ye Doers of the Word



And Not Hearers Only

In August of 1976, Reverend Gerald Hewson approached Corvie Crandall to organize a united Men's Club in the Rome City Church, Corvie accepted, and after interest was shown in contacts and bulletin notices, the first organization meeting was held in the church on October 27, 1979.

It was decided to have a breakfast meeting and when the meeting was called to order, there were fifteen men present. Those in attendance were: Don Goings, John Snyder, Paul Leathers, Herman Stiegler, Larry Ransbottom, Lawrence Foote, Gerald Hewson, Corvie Crandall, Dale Stewart, William Wear, Charles Schell, Ab Wilson, Vern Pray, Bud Tetrick, and Gerald Warrenner.

Mike Reid, District President of the Northeast Conference of Men's Clubs, was present and explained the purpose of having a Men's Club, and the need to be chartered, nationally. It was voted on immediately that the club should be chartered and a committee of Herman Stiegler, Dale Stewart, and Corvie Crandall, was selected to act as a nominating committee for an election to be held at the November 10th meeting. The first meeting was adjourned at 10 A.M. with the repeating of the Lord's Prayer.

Rome City United Methodist Men

1979

November 10, 1979

Breakfast 8:30 – 9:00

Meeting 9:00 – 10:00

Ten Persons Present. Officers elected:

Don Goings ----- President

John Snyder ----- Vice-President

Paul Leathers --- Secretary/Treasurer

Decided yearly dues would be \$3.00 for 1979.

Future Projects: Lower Ceiling in the Basement of the Church.

Put Light on Cross.

Paper Drive

Supper, Fish Fry, Auction Sale

December 8, 1979: "John Snyder shared his poems that he has written and a book. We all agreed that John is really talented in his gift of writing. Al Wilson nominated John Snyder poet of our men's group. All agreed."

January 12, 1980: "Secretary sent charter membership application to the United Methodist Mens Organization. Paul Leathers shared his feelings about what the church has done in his life."

October 11, 1980: "A suggestion was made to make posters declaring our love for God by using various slogans. Kendall Frech, with help from several others, built the shelves in the storage area. Luther Leatherman is gladly welcomed as a new member."

ROME CITY UNITED METHODIST MEN

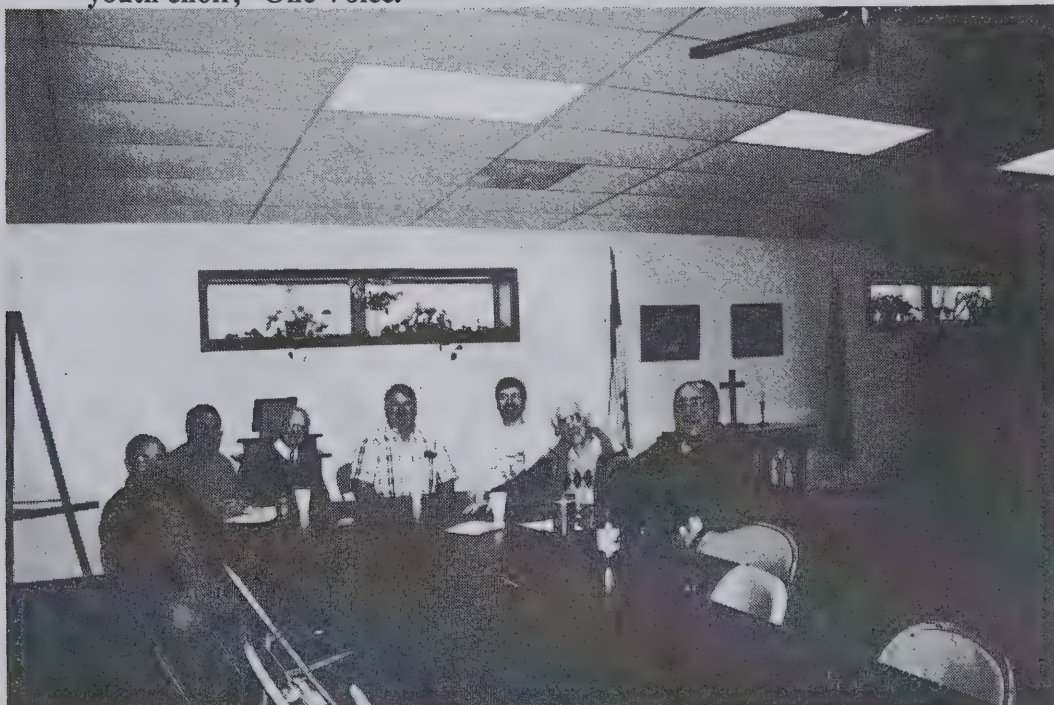
1999

Meeting: 7:30 A.M. Third Saturday of Every Month

Officers:	John Snyder	President
	Ron Harp	Vice-President
	Gene Holcomb	Secretary
	Lawrence Foote	Treasurer

Projects: Annual Fish and Tenderloin Dinner
Summer Yard Sale

The United Methodist Men are using the money earned from their yearly projects to help send children to church camp and to support the youth choir, "One Voice."



**Bill McKinney, Gene Holcomb, Rev. Harold North, John Pierce, Mark Donley
Don Goings, Don Cords**



YARD SALE SCHEDULED

The men's group of Rome City United Methodist Church will hold a yard sale Saturday from 9 a.m.-4p.m. or until all the items, including baked goods, are sold. The men shown here are among the club members who organized the sale. From the left are Mike Antal, Hal Schafer, John Snyder, Mark Donley, the Rev. Harold North and Gene Holcomb. Proceeds will be used for mission projects in the United States and overseas. (News-Sun photo by Joe Potter) (September 1998)



FUND-RAISER

Members of the Rome City United Methodist Church's men's group are shown in the church's kitchen where they will be preparing food for a fish and tenderloin supper to be held Thursday from 4-7. Shown in no particular order are Gene Holcomb, Mike Antal, Don Goings, Rick Fuentes, Mike Bruce, Greg Caldwell, Don Cords, Mike Thompson, Bill McKinney, Mark Donley and John Pierce. (News-Sun photo by Joe Potter) (March 1998)

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP
1999

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Abbs, Jan | 29. Donat, Marilyn |
| 2. Abbs, Jim | 30. Donat, W. Edwin |
| 3. Adair, Betty | 31. Donley, Linda |
| 4. Antal, Mike | 32. Donley, Mark |
| 5. Antal, Tonya | 33. Emerson, Sue |
| 6. Beall, Dan | 34. Fiandt, Mike |
| 7. Beall, Lucinda | 35. Fiandt, Vicki |
| 8. Bidwell, Jessica | 36. Flint, Nova |
| 9. Bruce, Mike | 37. Foote, Lawrence |
| 10. Bruce, Nancy | 38. Foote, Margaret |
| 11. Bruce, Robert | 39. Friend, David |
| 12. Caldwell, Greg | 40. Friend, Gennifer |
| 13. Caldwell, Lori | 41. Friskney, Beth |
| 14. Clark, Janet | 42. Fuentes, Rick |
| 15. Combs, Karen | 43. Fuentes, Sue |
| 16. Cords, Don | 44. Gayheart, Brenda |
| 17. Cords, Eunice | 45. Goings, Don |
| 18. Crozier, Clara | 46. Grey, Hilda |
| 19. Dallas, Arlene | 47. Hampshire, Jane |
| 20. Dallas, Ike | 48. Harp, Ron |
| 21. Dennis, Gary | 49. Harp, Shirley |
| 22. Dennis, Lois | 50. Harvey, Sondra |
| 23. Dennis, Karen | 51. Hippenhammer, Cassandra |
| 24. Dennis, Shirley | 52. Hippenhammer, John |
| 25. DeWitt, David | 53. Holcomb, Cheri |
| 26. DeWitt, Treva | 54. Holcomb, Gene |
| 27. Donat, Larry | 55. Holliday, Cathy |
| 28. Donat, Sandy | 56. Holliday, David |

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 57. Holliday, Dina | 88. Minar, Anna |
| 58. Holliday, Jason | 89. Minar, June |
| 59. Holliday, Mande | 90. North, Lois |
| 60. Holsinger, Don | 91. Pease, Helen |
| 61. Holsinger, Harry | 92. Pease, Joyce |
| 62. Holsinger, Lucille | 93. Pease, Max |
| 63. Hose, Barbara | 94. Perkins, Terri |
| 64. Hulett, Betty | 95. Pierce, John |
| 65. Hulwick, Bill | 96. Pierce, Twink |
| 66. Hulwick, Marge | 97. Post, James |
| 67. John, Catherine | 98. Post, Sylvia |
| 68. John, Dale | 99. Potter, Joe |
| 69. Kelley, Robert | 100. Potter, Pam |
| 70. Kelley, Kelly | 101. Ransbottom, Phyllis |
| 71. Kimmerly, Fred | 102. Rawles, Lewis |
| 72. Kimmerly, Geri | 103. Rawles, Virginia |
| 73. Kirk, Tina | 104. Rider, Karen |
| 74. Kreigh, Lee | 105. Rider, Mary Jane |
| 75. Landers, Mary Catherine | 106. Rider, Steve |
| 76. Leathers, Chad | 107. Ritchie, Marguerite |
| 77. Leathers, Patti | 108. Schafer, Kandi |
| 78. Leathers, Paul | 109. Shorts, Mary Elizabeth |
| 79. Leatherman, Jo | 110. Shull, Charles |
| 80. Lewis, Jean (Assoc. Mem.) | 111. Shull, Jayne |
| 81. Lung, Lanor | 112. Shull, Jeni |
| 82. Lung, Lawrence | 113. Shull, Matt |
| 83. McClellan, Dennis | 114. Smith, Mildred |
| 84. McClellan, Jane | 115. Snyder, Jason |
| 85. McKinney, Bill | 116. Snyder, John |
| 86. McKinney, Mary | 117. Snyder, Nikki |
| 87. McKinney, Mike | 118. Snyder, Stacey |

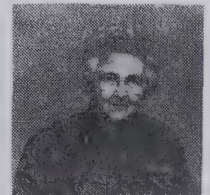
- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 119. Speakman, George | 134. Taylor, Sharon |
| 120. Stees, Gayle | 135. Thompson, Mike |
| 121. Stewart, Betty | 136. Thompson, Monna Lou |
| 122. Stewart, Dale | 137. Thompson, Richard |
| 123. Strawser, Mary | 138. Van Camp, Deb |
| 124. Strawser, Mary Martha | 139. Van Camp, Ron |
| 125. Steider, Nikki | 140. VanWinkle, Dorothy |
| 126. Sullivan, Jennifer | 141. Williams, Rosemary |
| 127. Sullivan, Matt | 142. Wilson, Ab |
| 128. Subzda, Joan | 143. Wilson, Betty |
| 129. Subzda, Tom | 144. Yerick, Linda |
| 130. Taylor, Christine | |
| 131. Taylor, Cindy | |
| 132. Taylor, Rick | |
| 133. Taylor, Jim | |

We thank God for the many members over the years who have faithfully supported the Rome City United Methodist Church, giving generously of themselves and their time. A history of the church would not be complete without recognizing at least some of our senior members.

Born in Garrett, Indiana, **Dale Stewart** moved to Van Wert, Ohio, when he was in elementary school, and then back to Indiana in 1934. Two years later, Dale married his late wife, Mary, and joined the Rome City Methodist Church. He has been an active member for the past 60 years.



Born and raised in Kendallville, **June Minar** married her late husband, Bud, in 1939 and since that time Rome City has been her home. A faithful member of the church since 1941, June has touched the hearts of so many with her warm, and loving ways



High school sweethearts, **Betty and Ab Wilson** graduated with a class of 6 from Chippewa High School in Wabash County. Married on September 2, 1934, they moved to Rome City in 1955 and have been active members of the Rome City Methodist Church for over 40 years.



Nova Flint was born and raised on the family farm west of Rome City, attended Rome City School, and has been a member of the church since 1941



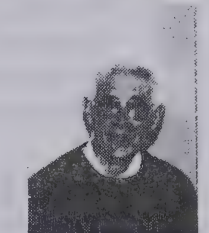
Marguerite Ritchie has touched and influenced the lives of so many in the Rome City area. In addition to teaching kindergarten in her hometown of Rome City for 30 years, she served as organist and pianist at Rome City Methodist for many years. The church has always been a part of Marguerite's life.



Jo Leatherman was born in Brimfield, moved to Rome City before she started to school, and has been attending Rome City United Methodist Church for as long as she can remember. She and her late husband, Luther, were married for 56 years.



Don Goings joined Rome City Methodist when he and Nellie moved to Rome City in 1951. It is impossible to list the contributions that the Goings have made to the church since that time. Although Nellie died in January 1999, Don continues to be active and a very vital part of the church family.



A member of the church for over 40 years, **Phyllis Ransbottom** has taught Sunday school and served in many different capacities. Phyllis and her late husband, Larry, were dedicated church members and always willing to open their home and hearts to others. Phyllis continues to spend a great deal of time helping those in need.



Associated with Rome City Methodist Church since 1921, **Harry Holsinger** has served in many ways, even playing in the church band for a number of years. **Lucille** joined in 1940 and although the Holsingers are not active members at this time, they continue to support the church.



Rome City United Methodist Church
Local Church Personnel 1999

Rev. Harold T. North Pastor

.....

Administrative Council	Person	Until Year End
*Chairperson (2 yrs)	Mike Antal	00
Lay Leader (3 yrs)	Nellie Goings	00
*Assistant Lay Leader	Betty Stewart	00
Recording Secretary (3 yrs)	Patti Leathers	99
*Treasurer (3 yrs)	Don Cords	02
*Assistant Treasurer (3 yrs)	Anna Minar	02
Financial Secretary (3 yrs)	Joyce Pease	00
*Ass't Financial Secretary (3 yrs)	Tonya Antal	00
*Building Fund Treasurer (2 yrs)	Lawrence Foote	00
*Lay Member Annual Conf. (4 yrs)	Cheri Holcomb	02
*Chairman Pastor/Parish (3 yrs)	Dan Beall	02
Sec. Committee on Nominat. (3 yrs)	Twink Pierce	00
*Chairman-Board of Trustees (3 yrs)	Mark Donley	00
Chairman-Finan. & Steward. (3 yrs)	Gene Holcomb	00
*Chairperson, Nurturing (3yrs)	Don Goings	00
*Chairperson, Education (3 yrs)	Jean Lewis	01
Chairperson, Worship (3 yrs)	Eunice Cords	99
Chairperson, Outreach/ Ass't. Rec. Secretary (3 yrs)	Sue Emerson	99
Chairperson, Missions (3 yrs)	Sue Emerson	99
Chairperson, Church & Soc. (3 yrs)	Clara Crozier	99
Chairperson, Evangelism (3 yrs)	Mike McKinney	00
Coordinator, Age Level & Family Ministry (3 yrs)	Karen Rider	99
*Pres. - United Meth. Men (1 yr)	John Snyder	99
*Pres. - United Methodist.	Betty Hulett/	99
Women. (1 yr)	Sue Emerson	99
*Pres. - United Meth. Youth (1 yr)	Matt Shull	99
*Church Historian (1 yr)	Mary McKinney	99
Membership Secretary (3 yrs)	June Minar	99
*Youth Coordinator/Athletic Dir.	Mike Bruce	99
Members at Large (3 yrs)	*Ron Harp	01
	*Bill McKinney	01

PASTOR/PARISH

Elected Positions (3 yrs)

1999

June Minar
Anna Minar
John Pierce

2000

Bill McKinney
Tonya Antal
Treva DeWitt

2001

*Dan Beal, Chair
*Don Goings
*David Frend

TRUSTEES (3 yrs)

1999

Greg Caldwell
Mike Antal
Dennis McClellan
Mike Thompson
Joe Potter

2000

Bob Kelley
John Pierce
Mike Bruce
Anna Minar
Jim Abbs

2001

*Sue Emerson
*Mark Donley, Chair
*Chuck Shull
*Paul Leathers
Cheri Holcomb

COMMITTEE ON WORSHIP – Chairperson – Eunice Cords

Organist: Lucinda Beal

Karen Dennis

Pianist: Lois North

Betty Hulett

Organist – Director of Music: Eunice Cords

Mike Antal

Junior Church: Jim & Tina Wilkinson

John Snyder

HEAD USHERS: John Pierce, Greg Caldwell, Ron VanCamp (1st Assistant),
Bob Kelley (2nd Assistant)

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION: Chairperson – Jean Lewis

Education Consultant & Coordinator of Senior Ministries

Tina Wilkinson

Treva DeWitt

Kelly Kelley

Jane McClellan

Patti Leathers

Nancy Bruce

Mark Donley

Lawrence Foote

Jayne Shull

Jim Wilkinson

Don Goings

Chuck Shull

Barbara Hose

COORDINATOR, AGE LEVEL & FAMILY MINISTRIES: Karen Rider

COMMUNION STEWARDS:

Coordinator: Sue Fuentes

Virginia Rawles

Betty Stewart

Kelly Kelley

Mark Donley

Nellie Goings

COMMITTEE ON MISSIONS:

Chairperson: Sue Emerson

Margaret Foote

Dorothy VanWinkle

Jane Hampshire

Mike McKinney

Barbara Hose

Don Goings

COMMITTEE ON CHURCH & SOCIETY:

Chairperson: Clara Crozier	Nancy Bruce	June Minar
Josephine Leatherman	Dina Holliday	Sondra Harvey
Virginia Rawles		

ATHLETIC COMMITTEE:

Chairman: Mike Bruce	David Frend	Chuck Ritchie
Rick Fuentes	Greg Caldwell	Chuck Shull
Jim Wilkinson		

NOMINATIONS AND PERSONNEL (3YRS):

1999	2000	2001
John Snyder	Betty Hulett	*Don Goings
Mark Donley	Betty Stewart	*Tonya Antal
Matt Shull	Twink Pierce	*Shirley Harp

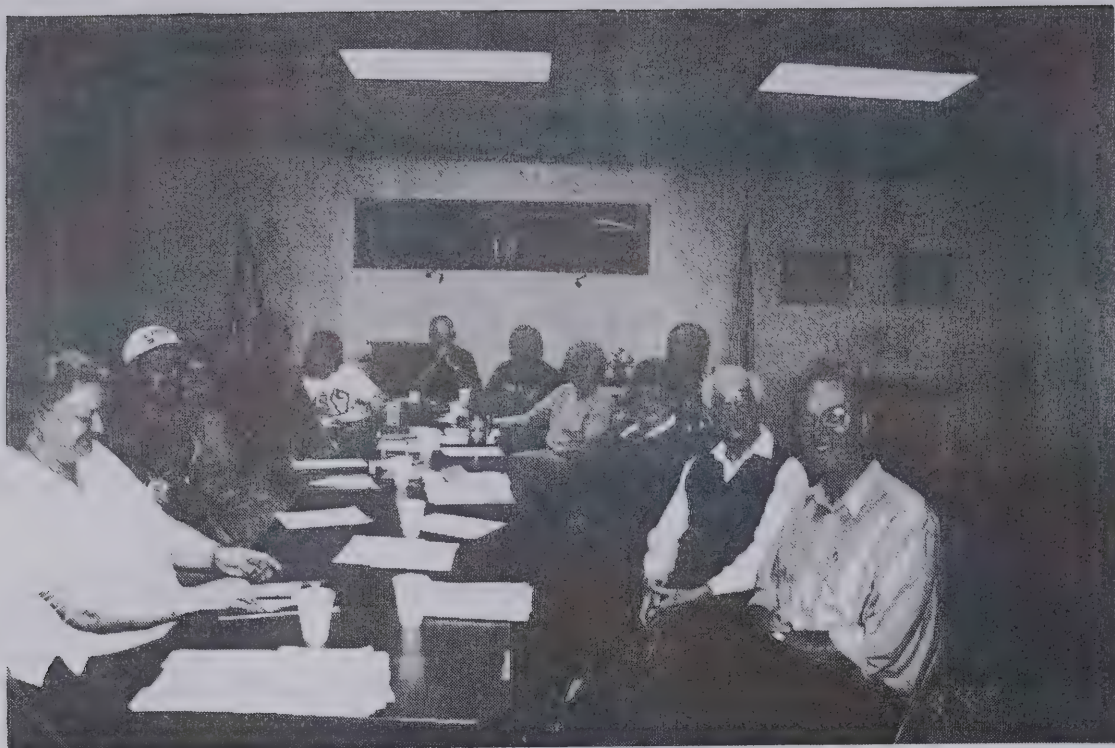
FINANCE:

Chairperson: Gene Holcomb
Standing Positions:
Lay Delegate to Annual Conference – Cheri Holcomb
Lay Leader – Nellie Goings
Church Treasurer – Don Cords
Chairman, Administrative Council – Mike Antal
Building Fund Treasurer – Lawrence Foote
Financial Secretary – Joyce Pease
Chairman, Nurturing – Don Goings
Chairman, Pastor/Parish – Dan Beall
Chairman, Outreach – Sue Emerson
President UMM – John Snyder
Presidents UMW – Betty Hulett & Sue Emerson
Chair, Trustees – Mark Donley

AUDITING COMMITTEE (3 YRS):

1999	2000	2001	2002
Patti Leathers	Twink Pierce	Stacey Snyder	Shirley Harp

HISTORIAN (1 YR): Mary McKinney

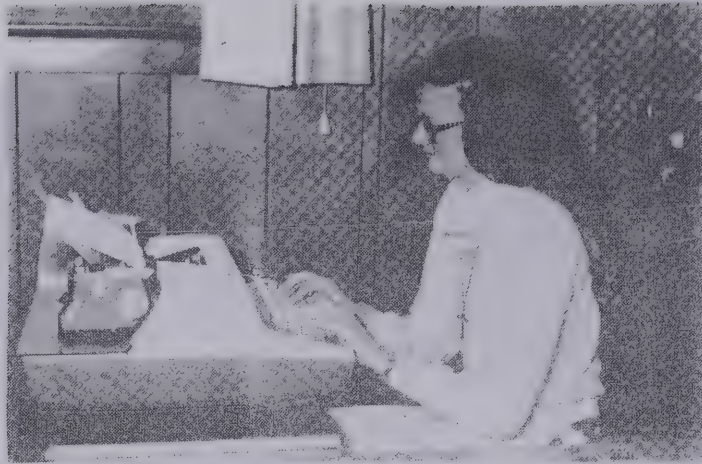


1999 Administrative Council Meeting – Sue Emerson, Mark Donley, Cheri Holcomb, Gene Holcomb, John Pierce, Patti Leathers, Pastor Harold North, Mike Antal, Mary McKinney, Don Cords, Jean Lewis, Don Goings, Dan Beall



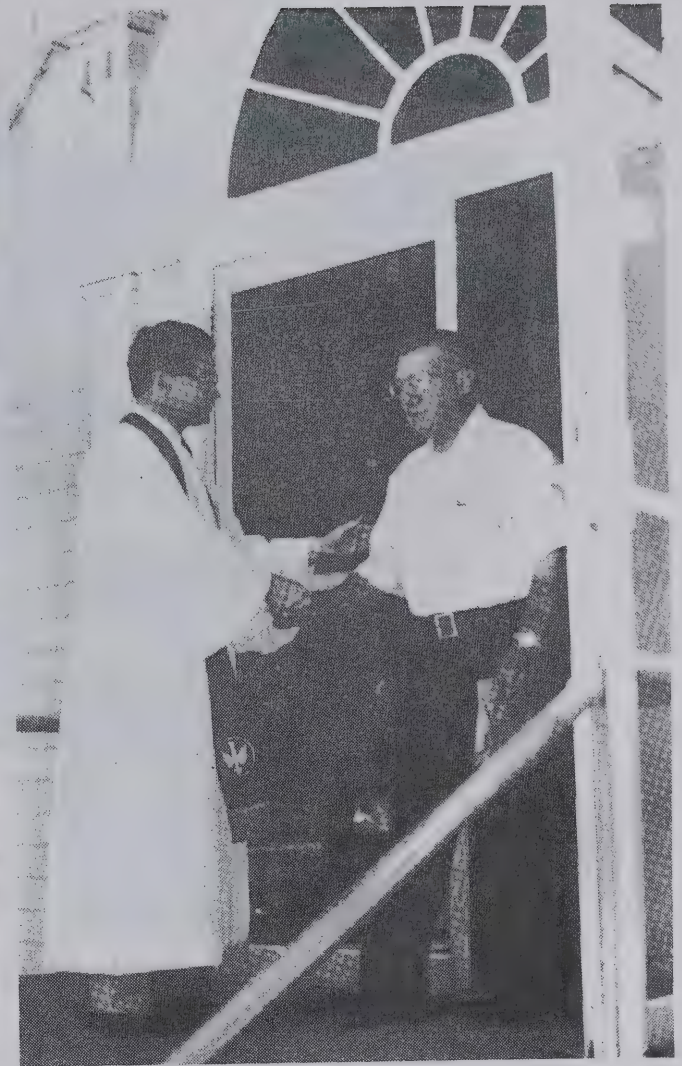
ROME CITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1980





**ROME CITY
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH
1980**

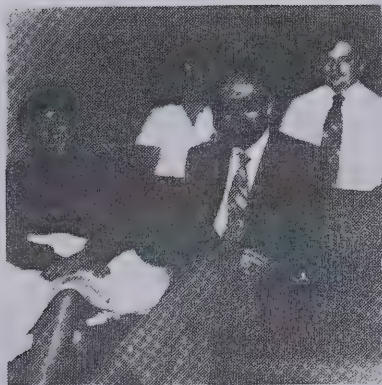




ROME CITY UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH 1984



**ROME CITY
UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**



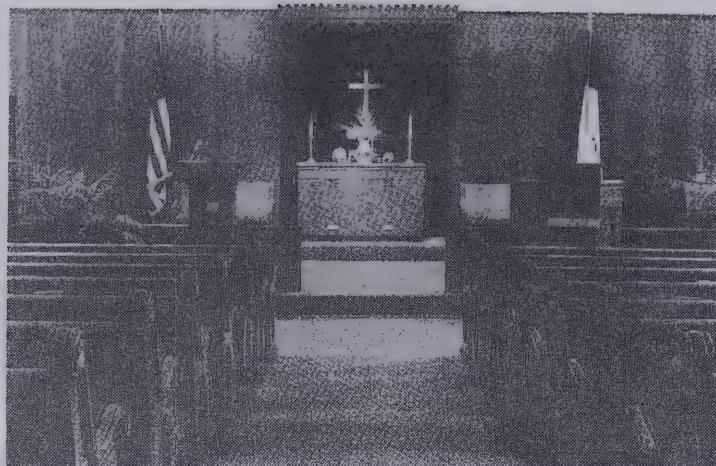
1984



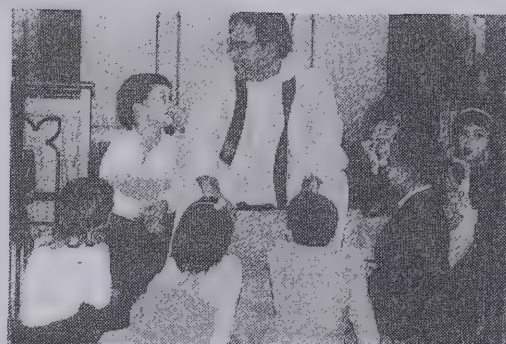


**ROME CITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
SUNDAY SCHOOL
1984**



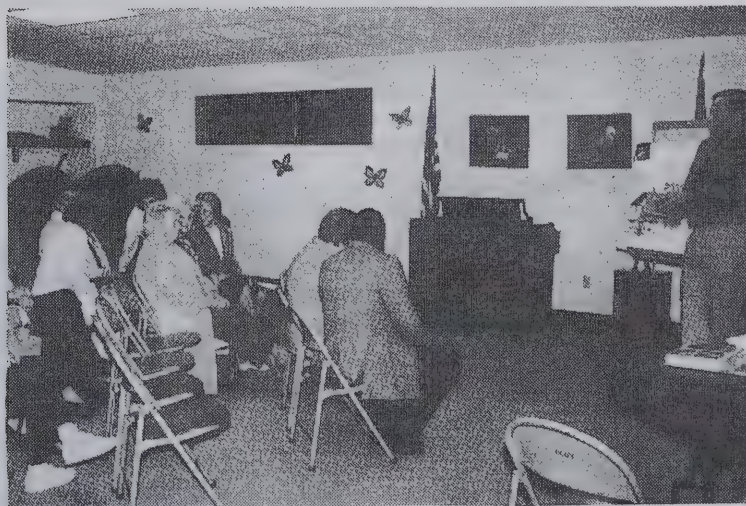


ROME CITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1989





**ROME CITY UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
1989**



ROME CITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1993



ROME CITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE EARLY YEARS

January 1883 - The Methodists of this village now have a Sunday school (of their own). The Sunday-school excitement in Rome is immense.

January 1883 - Esq. II G. Cobbs has bought the old M.E. Church lot.

January 1883 - The members of the M.E. Church here are making preparations to put a new first-class organ in their church.

March 1883 - Thursday evening prayer meetings are regularly held at the Methodist church.

April 1883 - The Methodist Church is to have stained-glass windows.

April 1883 - The M.E. Church is now getting its long promised coat of paint. Dick Bills is doing it. Rev. Wray will feed the Methodist flock here another year.

June 1883 - The M.E. Church edifice is now entirely repainted, and it presents a very fine appearance.

July 1883 - The M.E. Church building was rededicated on Sunday last.

September 1883 - Services were held at the M.E. Church Sabbath afternoon after which two children of Charles Osborn were immersed at the mill basin by the Rev. Wray.

February 1884 - The M.E. Church protracted effort is continuing in your behalf in this community. Where are you sinner? That you may be redeemed ere too late.

April 1884 - Rev. Wray of the M.E. Church preached his farewell sermon Wednesday last to a fair audience. He attends the M.E. conference this week. If the wise counselors return him to us again, we will be well pleased. If not, we extend to him a God speed in his new field of labor.

December 1884 - The M.E. Church will have a Sunday school festival, Christmas tree, etc. on Christmas Eve. The committees are now all busily engaged.

May 1886 - Preaching in Rome City every Sunday. The M.E. Sunday school is progressing finely. The attendance last Sunday was an even one hundred.

May 1886 - Splendid Sermon by Rev. C.H. Wilkinson on Sabbath forenoon. That was a good idea to challenge Br. Hardindorf to a walking match or "pastoral visiting," as the M.E. discipline calls it.

May 1886 - Rev. I.S. Jones preached at the M.E. Church Sunday evening. Owing to the inclemency of the weather, some good friends were absent.

June 1886 - Members of the Rome City M.E. Sunday school were presented with a handsome banner during last Sabbath evening's exercises.

July 1886 - Bro. Jones filled Bro. Wilkinson's place Sabbath last, and gave tobacco chewers, as well as drinkers of the ardent, some good advice.

August 1886 - Rome City looks lonesome. Boats are at a discount. Bro. Tabert preached last, Sabbath in the afternoon, and Bro. Wilkinson in the evening, in the M.E. Church. Audience rather light.

November 1886 - The offer of Rev. Wilkinson to take his next quarter's salary all in pie will make the ladies stare, as it will in all probability exceed in size the one made at Denbydale, Yorkshire, England on August 17, 1846, which was seven yards in circumference, containing among other things, five sheep and fifteen rabbits. He has since agreed to take it by installments.

November 1886 – Rev. Scott of Michigan, a representative of the church denominating itself “The Latter Day Saints,” preached in the M.E. Church Sunday evening last. Rev. Scott is a man of more than ordinary intelligence, and portrays his views on biblical questions, needing explanation in a very able manner.

December 1886 – There will be a Christmas entertainment at the M.E. Church on Christmas Eve for the Sunday school. Everybody is invited to participate.

December 1886 – Rev. C.H. Wilkinson visited his spiritual flock at Rome City last week, gathering in the lost sheep strayed from the flock.

January 1887 – A revival meeting will commence at the M.E. Church on Sunday, Rev. Wilkinson officiating. A cordial invitation is extended to all Christians to lend a helping hand in furthering the cause of Christianity, as the harvest is ripe and the reapers few.

February 1887 – Bro. C.H. Wilkinson, after taking a week to rest and get his commissariat and caisson department replenished, will start on a three weeks campaign against Satan at the M.E. Church in this metropolis.

February 1887 – The protracted meeting under the auspices of the M.E. church at this place is progressing satisfactorily. They mean to give the Devil and his cohorts their just dues. Sinners are invited to attend and be converted, and old members are requested to come and receive a thorough warming up.

March 1887 – A movement is on foot to secure Rev. Bicknell for this charge. We hope it will be successful, as we think he would give general satisfaction.

March 1887 – The front of the M.E. Church sports a new gas lamp, street cars from the Hotel to the Depot next then the Courthouse, when the prosperity of Rome City will be assured.

March 1887 – Rev. Wilkinson will deliver his farewell address here one week from next Sunday morning.

April 1887 – Rev. Bicknell preached in the M.E. Church Sunday morning, Elder Weaver in the Town Hall in the afternoon, and Rev. Haggerty in the Town Hall in the evening. The Romans cannot complain for want of spiritual food.

May 1887 – The M.E. Church people are pleased with their new pastor, Mr. Bicknell, late of Allen County.

May 1887 – Rev. I.J. Bicknell with his newly purchased horse and buggy has been making pastoral calls here this week, visiting the sick and looking after the interests of his flock generally.

August 1887 – Rev. Bicknell will deliver a sermon at the M.E. Church in this place on Sunday, August 18. Subject, “Wrecks.” This theme was suggested by the last railroad disaster new Chatsworth. Everybody invited.

October 1887 – Rev. Bicknell, pastor of the M.E. Church of this place and Wolcottville, while visiting Goshen, had the misfortune of falling, injuring his side near the region of his heart. He is improving at this writing.

October 1887 – The storm of Sunday last prevented churchgoers from attending church. The Sunday school scholars were rained on also.

October 1887 – Protracted meetings will begin in Rome City soon. The M.E. pastor will shake up the old sinners of Rome in a lively manner. Everybody is invited. Turn out and hear the gospel truths.

November 1887 – Revival meetings will soon commence here at the M.E. Church. Let the good work go on.

November 1887 – There will be Thanksgiving Services at the M.E. Church here Thursday evening, November 24th. Sermon by the pastor, Rev. I.J. Bicknell. The public is cordially invited to attend.

December 1887 – Rev. Bicknell last Sunday gave the stay-at-homes from church a blast that will last them a week or more. Fishing ain’t good either.

View of Rome City
1888



April 1888 – Rev. Bicknell delivered a lecture on temperance Friday night to a fair congregation, considering the inclemency of the weather.

April 1888 – The M.E. Church of Rome City gave their returned pastor a happy greeting Sunday morning last. Mr. Bicknell is more than an ordinary preacher in his denomination. Rev. Bicknell is a man of marked ability and held his audience spellbound by his eloquent flights of oratory.

April 1888 – The M.E. Church choir did well Sunday last, giving evidence of close voice culture. The organist, Mrs. Wyatt, is a host herself, either in vocal or instrumental music.

May 1888 – Memorial services were held in the M.E. Church Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock, under the auspices of the Grand Army of the Republic. The church was crowded to its utmost capacity. The services were opened by reading a selection from Psalms by Prof. Toby, followed in prayer by Elder Blanchard of Wolcottville. The choir rendered some very choice selections, especially arranged for Memorial services. They did well. The soldier boys were well pleased with the exercises and spoke in merited praise of the fine singing. The voices blended together so harmoniously, carrying our soul away into the heavenly chorus classes above, there to dream of the sweet bye and bye.

June 1888 – The M.E. Church will give a strawberry and ice cream festival at the Town Hall in Rome City, Saturday evening, June 16th. Ice Cream and strawberries served with cake, 10 cents a dish, each. The proceeds will go towards repairing the church. A cordial invitation is extended to all. Come and enjoy the occasion, and help along the good work in building up the broken places.

June 1888 – The Rome City M.E. choir did not sing in Wolcottville according to arrangement. The disappointment was great.

June 1888 – The M.E. Church of our city will undergo a thorough repairing. The trustees have agreed to repair and paint the structure. Our citizens have made liberal donations to accomplish the object.

July 1888 – Evidently the choir at the M.E. Church is having a little unpleasantness among themselves. We hope it will be amicably settled and they will give us some of their fine anthems.

July 1888 – The M.E. Church at Rome City through their pastor received on Sunday last seven accessions to their church roll. Those who were added to the church were Mrs. Wm. Wright, Capt. Eden H. Fisher, wife and daughter, Miss Fannie Miller, Miss Maggie Samson and Miss Maude Smith, daughter of Mrs. L.F. Stancliff.

August 1888 – The Methodist Church will soon put on a new coat and have stained glass windows.

November 1888 – The painting on the M.E. Church still hangs fine. Did you furnish the Minister's family a good fat turkey? Preaching at the M.E. Church Sunday next. Morning hour 11 o'clock.

December 1888 – E.H. Fisher, while on his way to church Sunday evening with lantern in hand, accidentally stepped into a hole in the gravel, was thrown off his poise and the way he demolished that lantern was a caution. Tuck says there was not enough left to sweep up with a broom. Oh, where was Tuck when the light went out.

December 1888 – Rev. I.J. Bicknell will preach in the M.E. Church Rome City Sunday morning next 11 o'clock a.m. A most cordial invitation is extended to all to come out and hear this able devine expound the scriptures. A gentleman usher will see to your wants.

January 1889 – The average attendance at the M.E. Sunday school for the year 1888 was seventy-two. This is a good showing and is a credit to the good work done here.

January 1889 – The Methodists employed a full-fledged Baptist to do their blackboard work for them. We wonder if they are short of timber.

January 1889 – The revival gun was fired at the M.E. Church Sunday, and firing will now be continued until the enemy surrenders – partially, at least.

January 1889 – At the annual meeting of the M.E. Sunday school board of Rome City the following officers were elected for 1889: G.T. Brothwell, Supt.; J. Duryee, Ass't Supt.; George W. Clock, Sec'y.; Frank Osborn, Ass't. Sec'y.; Mrs. G. T. Brothwell, Treas.; Miss May Clock, Librarian; Miss Mabel Fisher, Ass't Librarian; Miss Eva Mather, Organist; Miss Carrie Potts, Ass't. Organist; Emanuel Sheffler, Chorister; C.F. Osborn, Sec'y of Sunday school Board; F.B. Moore, Cor. Sec'y.

January 1889 – What we supposed to be an earthquake the other morning proved to be only Jennie Rice experimenting with gunpowder in cleaning out stovepipes.

January 1889 – The M.E. Church at Rome City Sunday evening last was filled to overflowing with our very best citizens, listening very attentive to the sermon and exercises. Much good will come out of such seasons of Christian fellowship.

January 1889 – The M.E. Church choir did splendid last Sunday evening. Their voices blending together in harmony. Mrs. John Dye, the leading soprano, has a very sweet cultured voice. In fact, the entire choir is entitled to praises. They add materially to the service and are a great attraction and aid to our Christian service. We hope that they will continue to give us regularly some of their choice soul stirring music.

January 1889 – Rev. Bicknell says if he does not convert souls he will go farming. Who can prevent him from carrying out his desire.

January 1889 – The church exercises Sunday last at the M.E. Church in our city were somewhat broken. The choir could not sing their best pieces. The Chorister was at work putting up ice. "Make hay while the sun shines."

January 1889 – Next Sunday Bros. Haggerty or Jones will occupy the Baptist pulpit in the morning and Rev. Bicknell in the evening at the M.E. Church. Evening services on the Inauguration of Benjamin Harrison. A cordial invitation is tended to all democrats and republicans as well as Christians to attend these exercises. Rev. Bicknell is a forcible speaker and you will receive light on this subject not previously uttered from the pulpit from this intelligent divine.

March 1889 – Sunday evening next, Rev. I.J. Bicknell will preach his farewell sermon to the Romanites. May his line be cast in a pleasant place – is the prayer of his congregation. Rev. Bicknell, was transferred to the Muncie district. His present location is Fortville, Ind.

April 1889 – Rev. A.S. Preston, our new preacher, held forth in the M.E. Church Sunday evening last. Mr. P. has made a favorable impression on our people so far. We ask for a continuance. The church was full to overflowing Sunday, everybody being anxious to hear the new preacher.

November 1889 – The Rome City M.E. Sunday school is on the boom. Attendance Sunday last 85, collection \$1.24.

December 1889 – The following persons were taken in on probation in the M.E. Church at this place on last Sunday evening: Frank E. Miller, Fred Moore, Ed Miller, Frank Cobbs, Alla Swigart, Isabell Dye. The right hand of fellowship was extended to them. We hope that the example set by these young men will be heeded by their comrades and that they will also profit by it.

December 1889 – The peanut committee for the Christmas tree at the M.E. Church has done their duty nobly. They made the purchase and are now honorably discharged.

December 1889 – The ladies of the M.E. Church presented Rev. Preston and wife with a fine Christmas present, a nice rocking chair.

January 1890 – The ladies of the Methodist Church have organized a mite society and they meet every Wednesday. Declamations, dialogues, essays, and speeches will be the order of the program. Remember it will cost you but one penny to attend.

March 1890 – There was an attendance of over 100 at the M.E. Sunday school last Sunday and the collection amounted to \$2.25. This was the “banner Sabbath” for the quarter so far. The blackboard at Sunday school was beautifully illustrated by that superb artist, Mr. J.P. Chapman.

April 1890 – Rev. A.S. Preston has been returned by the conference to this charge for another year, and will preach at the M.E. Church Sunday evening at the usual hour. Mr. Preston is well liked, and it is highly pleasing to the M.E. people here to have him with them again.

April 1890 – The Methodist sugar party was well attended last Wednesday evening. Everything was sweet, even to the attendants.

April 1890 – The new singing books for the M.E. Sunday school have arrived. They were written and composed by our old friend and schoolmate, Prof. W.A. Ogden.

April 1890 – Rome has another of those conveniences for the traveling public – a town pump. You will find it near the city drug store.

April 1890 – Our Sunday school last Sunday showed signs that the spring styles of hats were not in yet. We noticed the absence of those who were waiting for the latest spring styles. Now, girls, come right along; don’t let hats or anything else interfere with your duty toward the Sunday school.

June 1890 – Ice cream and strawberry festival, milk shake, confectioneries, etc. at the Town Hall, Rome City, Saturday evening, June 14th, given by the M.E. Epworth League Society. A big time is expected. Get ready for it and remember the date.

June 1890 – Rev. Hartsuck of Kendallville filled Rev. Preston’s pulpit here Sunday last. We heard it said his sermon was good, only a little too long for a hot day.

July 1890 – The Methodists took several parties into the church Sunday as full members and administered baptism to them. Frank and Edward Miller were immersed, Mrs. I. Dyer, Misses Julia Dyer and Eva Potts were sprinkled.

August 1890 – Rev. L.W. Munson, an aged minister of the M.E. church, who preached the first sermon in Rome City, preached at the Tabernacle Monday afternoon to a large audience.

October 1890 – The new Methodist choir is a hummer. Come out and hear them sing sweet songs of praise from their new books.

October 1890 – Rev. A.S. Preston has had a call to another charge, but did not accept it. He is worthy of a first-class charge. Should this church lose Rev. Preston they will miss one of the best men they ever had here. He is gentlemanly, kind, loving, and a thorough scholar, fitted for the best station in this conference.

October 1890 – The ladies of the M.E. church will give a Thanksgiving oyster supper at the town hall. Remember the time and place. You will be royally entertained. A cordial invitation is extended to all. The proceeds to go toward repairing the church.

March 1891 – The following is a list of converts during the M.E. revival meeting at Rome City: Mr. White, Mrs. White, Mr. C. Cain, Mr. Delt Squibb, Mrs. Mina Parker, Mrs. Plank, Clara Plank, Hattie Plank, Lewis Potts, Wm, Shroyer, Mr. Wilson and Nelson Gaby.

March 1891 – The protracted meetings closed at the M.E. Church at this place Sunday night. Much interest was manifested throughout the meetings, and thirty-two new members were added to the church.

April 1891 – A plan to remodel the M.E. Church and put it in metropolitan style is projected and will be carried out.

April 1891 – Rev. Preston has been transferred to Albion. This change is much regretted by the people of our city as they have become greatly attached to him. Rev. M.H. Smith of Osceola, Ind., has been transferred to this district. Rev. Smith comes highly recommended, having been at Osceola for five years. He will preach at the M. E. Church Sunday evening. Let everyone come out and welcome the new minister.

October 1891 – Last Sunday afternoon Mrs. Harlow Parker was baptized in the pure waters of Sylvan Lake and taken into the M. E. Church as a full member.

December 1891 – The Baptist and M.E. Church both celebrated on Christmas Eve in the usual manner. The Baptist had a snow house and a real Santa Claus, while the Methodists had a ship. Both were loaded with many handsome and valuable presents and the exercises were highly enjoyable.

March 1893 – Last Sunday was Missionary Sunday at the M.E. Church. A prize was offered for the scholar having collected the largest amount. Miss Annie Sidall of Van Wert, Ohio, was an easy winner, she having collected \$1.97.

May 1893 – The Methodists here will be obliged to hustle as the price of preaching has raised. We understand the minister in charge wants \$800, \$600 being the former price.

June 1893 – Saturday night at the new store building of G.H. Northam, there will be a strawberry and ice cream spider web social for the benefit of the M.E. minister. Come all and get entangled in its meshes; ten cents or more will let you out.

July 1893 – The social Saturday evening at Northam's new storeroom for the benefit of the M.E. Church was well attended. An enjoyable time was had, the only complaint we heard being that they filled the dishes so full of berries that a great many were obliged to leave some. Ice cream was also served.

November 1893 – The interest in the revival meetings at the M.E. church still keeps up. Rev. Murry has a bulletin board in the post office, inviting all to attend and occupy front seats.

Church Directory

M.E. Church – Services every other Sunday morning at 10:30 o'clock, and Sunday nights alternately. Sunday school at 10 o'clock. Prayer meeting on Thursday nights. Epworth League every Sunday evening from 6 to 7 o'clock. Epworth Prayer meeting on Wednesday nights.

April 1894 – Rev. Knox, the new M.E. preacher delivered his first sermon here Sunday morning last to a good-sized audience. Come out next Sunday evening and hear him.

April 1894 – The new telephone line from LaGrange to Rome City will be free to all persons today, after then the toll will be fifteen cents for five minutes conversation. A book good for 20 messages will be sold for \$2.50. The LaGrange Democrat says: "The line works perfectly and conversation with Rome City as easy as if the parties were in the same room.

April 1894 – The M.E. Church contemplates purchasing a new organ. One will be on trial next Sunday if it arrives.

May 1894 – The M.E. Church has purchased a fine Story & Clark organ from Geo. Sheffler, Wolcottville. You can now come to church and not get the headache by hearing the old organ groan.

May 1894 – A grand concert under the direction of Prof. Geo. Sheffler of Wolcottville, will be given at the M.E. Church Rome City Saturday evening, May 26th to help pay for the new organ.

May 1894 – Memorial Day was observed here Wednesday, the people meeting at the M.E. Church, then proceeding to the Osborn cemetery where many graves were beautifully decorated. Rev. L.E. Knox delivered the oration at the graveyard.

November 1894 – Everyone must come to the M.E. church next Monday night as Prof. Bennet will give an entertainment with his phonograph. You can hear distinctly what it says in any part of the house without the use of tubes. All who have heard it speak praises of it. Admission 15 and 10 cents.

December 1894 – The M.E. Sunday school met last Thursday evening to elect officers for the coming year. Dr. Goodwin was elected superintendent.

December 1894 - Mrs. Ella McConnell gave a lecture at the M.E. Church Monday night on the subject of "Scientific Temperance Instruction in the Public Schools." A fair sized audience greeted her and her words were well received. An effort will be made to organize a W.C.T.U. society here.

January 1895 – The Epworth League will give a literary entertainment at the M.E. Church next Sunday night, consisting of songs, declamations, etc. Free for all.

April 1895 – At the Methodist conference that body has taken a bold stand for temperance reform; they fully endorse the Nicholson bill, and will freely circulate petitions remonstrating against the establishment of saloons. They are also down on progressive euchre, dancing, and theatres. Let other religious organizations lend a helping hand and these nuisances will be erased from our land.

April 1895 – The Methodists look pleasant and wear broad smiles, all because Brother L.E. Knox has been returned to this charge.

May 1895 – The commencement exercises of the Orange Township graduates occurred at the M.E. Church Saturday evening. The class consisted of twenty common school and two high school graduates. The essays read were all splendid and well presented.

October 1899 – The ladies of the Methodist Church organized an aid society last Wednesday for the purpose of raising money to repair the church.

November 1899 – Protracted meeting will begin at the M.E. Church next Saturday or Sunday evening. A singing evangelist, Mr. Saylor of Kokomo, will assist Rev. Westhafer in the work. All are invited to attend.

November 1899 – Protracted meetings are now in progress at the M.E. church, conducted by Rev. E.B. Westhafer and assisted by Mr. Saylor of Kokomo.

Come Let us Reason Together

Revival Meeting At The

**Rome City, Ind.
M.E. Church**

**Sunday Evening
Nov. 5, 1899**

E.B. Westhafer, Pastor

The first few days the pastor will be assisted by singing Evangelist Joseph H. Saylor of Kokomo, Indiana. A general invitation extended to all. Followers of Christ this is a time you can help show your interest by being present over service. Pray, sing, testify, shake hands, invite your neighbors and friends. Parents come and bring your children. Let the cry be Souls for Christ.

REMEMBER THE DATE

E.B. Westhafer, Pastor

November 1899 – The revival meeting is still in progress, the good work goes on and many are coming out on the Lord's side. The champion shooter of northern Indiana and the evangelist singer are having great meetings and the M.E. Church is thronged every night.

November 1899 – The baptismal services at the M.E. Church Sunday night were beautiful and impressive. The sermon was good, the singing was fine, and the church thronged to overflowing.

December 1899 – At the annual election of the M.E. Sunday school the following officers were elected for the ensuing year; George E. Milnor, superintendent; Prof. E. Broughton, assistant superintendent; Mabel Fisher, secretary; Elizabeth Sullivan, assistant secretary; Mabel Fisher, organist; Maude Sheffler, assistant organist; A.J. Raber, chorister; Gladys Sheffler and Nellie Raber, librarians.

April 1900 – Rev. Williams R. Wones, the new Methodist minister, will preach at the M.E. Church next Sunday evening at 7:30 p.m.

June 1900 – The electric lights on the island, around the lake and at the depot are now in full force.

June 1900 – The supper given by the Ladies' Aid society of the M.E. Church at the town hall Saturday night was a complete success in every way. The ladies cleared over \$17.

June 1900 – Preparations for the repair of the Methodist Church are under way and if plans materialize, the church will be in good shape within a few months.

June 1900 – Rev. T. J. Mawhorter performed the ordinance of baptism upon Ollie Chapman, Ray Chapman, Mae Smurr, and Edna Hevil in Sylvan Lake last Sunday afternoon.

July 1900 – Mrs. W. R. Wones, wife of the pastor of the M.E. Church died at Wolcottville Sunday evening after a lingering illness of consumption. The remains were sent to St. Paris, O., where the funeral and interment took place. The pastor has the deep sympathy of the citizens of this place in this his hour of bereavement.

August 1900 – Thomas R. Marshall has the contract for doing the stone work and plastering for the basement of the Methodist Church. The work will begin at once.

September 1900 – Work has finally begun on the Methodist Church. James Fisher is raising it, and the basement will be completed this fall.

October 1900 – On election day, the Ladies' Aid society of the M.E. Church will serve dinner and supper in the basement of their church and arrangements are being made to receive the election news in the evening at the church.

December 1900 – The protracted meeting at the M.E. Church continues with good interest. Some have been converted and the church hopes many others will follow soon. Rev. W.R. Wones is an earnest worker.

February 1901 – The social and dedication of the new basement hall of the M.E. Church was a success, yielding \$33.29.

March 1901 – The Ladies' Aid society of the M.E. Church, Rome City, will give their grand opening of the church parlors, Saturday evening, March 16.

May 1902 – The Ladies' Aid society of the M.E. Church, at their ice cream social held in the parlors of the church last Saturday, scored a great success. The social netted the hard working ladies \$24 and four young ladies had solicited and collected for the aid society to help make that June 1st payment on church debt, \$28.50, making a grand total for the evening of \$52.50.

May 1902 – A called meeting of the Sunday school board of the M.E. Church here was held in the church parlors Monday evening. The resignation of G.E. Milner as superintendent caused by his removal with his family to Fort Wayne was reluctantly accepted. He had been a very competent and faithful Sunday school worker. G.T. Brothwell was elected superintendent, and J. Reinoehl, assistant superintendent. The Sunday school is in a prosperous condition.

June 1902 – The Junior League of the M.E. Church will give a strawberry and ice cream social in the parlors of the church Saturday evening, June 14. Everybody cordially invited to attend. The Juniors are endeavoring to raise funds to pay the last \$50 subscription on the M.E. Church repairs. They have already paid \$100. Turn out one and all and help the noble band of Juniors in their good work.

June 1902 – Children's' Day service at the M.E. Church, last Sunday evening, was a grand success. The church was full to overflowing, and the children's program of recitations, class exercises, beautiful songs, and splendid chorus singing was very much enjoyed by all.

December 1902 – There will be no Christmas exercises at either of the churches here this year on account of the existing epidemic of scarlet fever. We are glad to note, however, that the disease is abating.

January 1903 – The merry chimes of the church bells were heard in our town Sunday morning, calling the two Sunday schools together after a three weeks closing on account of the scarlet fever epidemic.

January 1903 – At the annual election of officers for the M.E. Sunday school held Tuesday evening, the following named persons were chosen for the year 1903: G.T. Brothwell, superintendent; J. Reinohl, assistant superintendent; Forest Mack, secretary; Miss Zoe Jennings, assistant; Miss Edith Fisher, treasurer; Misses Luin Myers and Mildred Watkins, librarians; Miss Edith Fisher, artist; Miss Nelie Raber, organist; Miss Stella Pierson, assistant; J.D. Raber, chorister.

February 1903 – The M.E. Ladies Aid society met in the parlors of their church last Thursday. Having a great amount of work they were anxious to finish, they took their dinner with them and remained all day.

February 1903 – Revival meetings commenced at the M.E. Church Sunday evening at 7 o'clock. Rev. Mr. Wones is a very earnest worker, and we hope great good may be accomplished during this series of meetings. The public is very cordially invited to attend.

March 1903 – An Epworth League chapter was organized at the M.E. Church last Sunday evening and officers elected for the same as follows: President, A.J. Raber; first vice president, Mrs. J. Reinohl; second vice president, Mrs. Mary Jones; third vice president, John Jones; fourth vice president, Mrs. Ira Sunday; secretary, Forest Mack; treasurer, Nellie Raber; organist, Stella Pierson.

March 1903 – The revival meetings that have been held continuously for four weeks at the M.E. Church closed Sunday evening. The meetings had been well attended and great spiritual interest was manifested. There were thirteen accessions to the church during the series of meetings. Rev. W. R. Wones and wife made a house to house visit of the entire town and were cordially received at all places.

March 1903 – The Ladies' Aid society of the M.E. Church will hold a social and serve supper in the church parlors, Saturday evening, March 18, 1903. A cordial invitation is extended to all. A large attendance is desired as the ladies are working hard to pay the last installment of their subscription of six hundred dollars toward the recent repairs of the church. The ladies will extend to all a hearty welcome.

April 1903 – Rev. W. R. Wones delivered a fine sermon at the M.E. Church Sunday evening. We are glad to note that Rev. Mr. Wones has been returned to us for another conference year.

January 1904 – The revival meeting which had been in progress at the M.E. Church for two weeks, closed with very satisfactory results Sunday evening. Under the competent leadership of Miss Olive G. Marshall, the deaconess evangelist from Cincinnati, O., a great work was accomplished. Thirty-two souls came out during the meetings and twenty-one persons united with the M.E. Church. Miss Marshall preached every day and evening with mighty power, accompanied with songs from the spirit, and the entire community was moved as never before. Sunday evening many were forced to leave the church, being unable to gain admittance.

March 1904 – The Ladies' Aid society of the M.E. Church will give an Easter Social on Saturday evening, April 1, 1904. A bounteous hot supper will be served at the small cost of 15 cents. Turn out boys and girls both old and young and help the ladies in their good work.

March 1904 – There will be preaching services next Sunday at the M.E. Church at 3 o'clock by the pastor, Rev. Wones.

March 1904 – The Ladies' Aid society of the M.E. Church is planning an Easter social to be held in the church parlors, Saturday evening, April 2. The following will be served for supper: biscuits and butter, pressed beef, beans, eggs, pickles, jelly, doughnuts, tea and coffee. Price 15 cents. Ice cream and cake, extra, 10 cents. All, regardless of creed, are invited.

March 1904 – The M.E. Sunday school will have an earnest presentation and study of the Easter lesson and resurrection next Sabbath, and some special singing. The public is cordially invited to attend.

April 1904 – The social held in the Methodist Church parlors Saturday evening under the auspices of the Ladies' Aid society, was a success, netting the society \$23. A very friendly social greeting was given all present and a good time enjoyed by all the crowd.

April 1904 – Rev. W. R. Wones returned from conference Tuesday. He will make his future home at Bouron, where he is appointed to that church.

April 1904 The Ladies' Aid of the M.E. Church held an all day meeting in the parlors of the church yesterday, owing to the great amount of work to be finished.

April 1904 – News has reached here from the North Indiana Methodist Episcopal Conference that a decided change has been made, dividing Wolcottville Circuit. Brimfield is attached to Albion and Wolcottville to Rome City. This will give the Rome City Church preaching each Sabbath, alternating morning and evening with Wolcottville, and change the services very pleasantly and suit Rome City exactly.

May 1904 - The M. E. Church people now have an organized choir and new singing books. Much praise is given the choir for the good singing.

May 1904 - The funeral of the late Nancy Donaway was held at the Methodist Episcopal Church, Sunday at 11 o'clock. Rev. G. M. Bailor officiating. Miss Donaway was an old resident of this place and a very honored and respected citizen. She was a charter member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, was eighty-seven years, ten months, and twenty-five days of age. The remains were interred in Orange cemetery.

June 1904 – The M.E. Sabbath school gave a concert Sunday evening, June 19, which was fine. The house was well filled. No preaching service will be held at the M.E. Church next Sunday, owing to the quarterly meeting being held at Wolcottville.

December 1904 – Christmas Eve exercises will be appropriately observed at the M.E. Church Saturday evening. A fine evergreen tree will be in position to receive presents for all who wish to have them on the tree and a committee ready to receive the same. Fine singing from a special Christmas program will be rendered, also songs and recitations by the children will be in order for a part of the evening. The public is cordially invited to attend.



SPRING BEACH HOTEL

On Lake Front 1 Block From Sanitarium

\$2.00 Per Day

Harry Harrison, Prop. Special Rates By the Week



ROME CITY SCHOOL 1911

November 1911 – On Tuesday evening, Class No. 4 of the M.E. Sunday school with their teacher, Miss Resler, very pleasantly entertained Class No. 3, taught by Miss Shannon, in the social rooms of the church. About forty were present and enjoyed a delightful evening.

November 1911 – The ladies of the M.E. Aid society will hold an all day meeting Wednesday. Their husbands will also enjoy a chicken pie dinner with them.

December 1911 – It has been decided that neither of our Sunday schools will have an entertainment this year.

November 1912 – Several members of the Ladies' Aid society of the M.E. Church attended the sale today on the Frank Waldron farm, serving the dinner there.

December 1912 – The Sunday school pupils of the M.E. Church will be given a free oyster supper Christmas eve instead of the usual Christmas tree.

December 1912 -At a largely attended session of the M.E. Sunday school today, the retiring superintendent, G. R. Northam, was presented with a beautiful and comfortable arm chair. His many years of service have been very satisfactory to the members of the big school.

March 1913 - Members of the official board of the M.E. Church held a business meeting at the home of J. Rheinoehl Wednesday evening.

March 1913 – The chicken pie social given by the Ladies' Aid society of the M.E. Church Saturday evening netted \$36 and the big crowd voted they had value received.

May 1913 – Rev. I.R. Godwin , recently assigned to the M.E. Church here, delivered his first sermon to a Rome City congregation last night, and made a very good impression.

May 1913 – The water in the reservoir has risen to an unusual height and now reaches the docks in many places. No more inspiring sight can be seen anywhere than right here at our own “tumbles” as this great volume of water rushes onward to the sea. Some day its value will be appreciated and it will be conserved for use in developing and putting to good use the thousands of horse power daily that now goes to absolute waste.

June 1913 – Local people are in readiness to entertain the Orange Township Sunday school convention, which convenes here Wednesday, June 11, at the M.E. Church. Our people will be able to nicely care for all that may come.

September 1913 – Mrs. Gene Stratton-Porter and daughter, Mrs. Jeannette Porter-Monroe, and son were guests of Dr. Miles Porter, Sr., of Fort Wayne last week.

October 1913 – There will be no church services or Sunday school at the M.E. Church tomorrow, on account of the repairs being made to the church.

October 1913 – Work is progressing satisfactorily on the Gene Stratton Porter cottage here, and experts are now busy installing the furnaces.

November 1913 – Mrs. Gene Stratton-Porter has closed her cottage for the winter and for the present is making her home with Mr. and Mrs. D.L. Sowers while the new cottage is being completed.

November 1913 – Next Sunday will be Old People's Day at the M.E. Church. Services will be held in both forenoon and afternoon. A free dinner will be served in the basement. Rev. Godwin and Rev. C.H. Wilkinson expect to spend most of this week making calls in this community.

November 1913 – The Old People's Day held Sunday at the M.E. Church was well attended and enjoyed by all. The old time songs, sung without the aid of a musical instrument, the sermon by Rev. C. H. Wilkinson on the life of Enoch interested both old and young. After the basket dinner in the basement the crowd reassembled and spent the time in listening to the religious experiences of older members present. The sermon in the evening was delivered by the pastor, Rev. I.R. Godwin, at which time he announced a series of revival services beginning this evening.

November 1913 – One of the most pleasing Thanksgiving events here yesterday was the dinner given by Mrs. Gene Stratton-Porter to the workmen employed in finishing her splendid residence on Sylvan Lake. It was hoped to have the new building ready for occupancy by Thanksgiving, but unlooked for delays made this impossible. The Thanksgiving dinner that resulted will be long remembered by all present. It was an opportunity given to few, to meeting this talented Indiana authoress in her own home. The Turkey was sent from New York and the apples were prize-winners at the Indiana State Fair.

December 1913 – The official board of the M.E. Church met Monday evening and elected the following Sunday school officers for the coming year: Superintendent, A.J. Raber; assistant, Hugh Tipton; secretary, Wilbur Milnor; treasurer, Mrs. Nellie Potts; choristers, A.J. Raber and William Shell; organists, Wilbur Milnor and Mrs. Nellie Potts; librarians, Harold and Verne Moore.

December 1913 – The revival services at the M.E. Church closed last night with between 30 and 40 accessions.

Gospel Meetings

Now in progress at the
Methodist Episcopal Church

Conducted by the pastor



THE REV. IVAN R. GODWIN

Assisted by

THE CHOIR AND CONGREGATION

We want YOU to help

Services Each Evening at 7:30

Live Evangelistic Sermons

Familiar Hymns

Come Early and Enjoy the Song Service

March 1914 – The ladies of the M.E. Church will hold a rag-sewing meet this evening at the church.

March 1914 – The ladies of the M.E. Church will give a hot biscuit-maple syrup, ice cream social at their church next Saturday evening. It will be cleanly and appetizing.

March 1914 – Work on the placing of the poles for the building of the electric line from LaGrange that will supply us with light and power is progressing.

April 1914 – There will be preaching at the Rome City M.E. Church every Sunday now. The recent Mishawaka conference helped us out greatly.

May 1914 – Gene Stratton Porter is driving a new Chalmers car.

October 1914 – Socials given by both the M.E. and F.W.B. Churches lately have been well patronized. Both churches are raising money to defray the expense of installing electric lights.

December 1914 – Rev. Wones, a former M.E. minister of this place, died Friday at his home in Warsaw.

April 1915 – Our people regret very much to know that Rev. I.R. Godwin, who has been pastor of the local M.E. Church goes to Gas City, but our loss is probably his gain. We welcome the new pastor, Rev. Woodruff.

May 1917 – The Ladies Aid of the M.E. Church has announced a social to be held on the evening of March 17th. A hot lunch and an Irish wedding will be the principal features of the occasion.

June 1917 – There will be a meeting at the M.E. Church Wednesday evening for the purpose of organizing an auxiliary of the Red Cross. Every effort is being made to bring out a large attendance. Ladies from Kendallville will be present to assist in the organization.

December 1917 – A very pleasant surprise was given the Methodist pastor, W.T. Daly, and family on Wednesday night when the Rome City people “en masse” came ever bringing material blessings in abundance. A pleasant evening was enjoyed by all.

May 26, 1918

M.E. Church

W.T. Daly, Pastor

Special Prayer meeting on Thursday night for our Nation, for our boys and for the world. Come and join us.

Choir Practice on Friday Night

Next Sunday

Morning Worship at 10:00 A.M.

Sunday School at 11:00 A.M.

Epworth League at 7:00 P.M.

We give all who care to worship with us a cordial invitation.

On last Sunday one of the most sacred services ever held was in our church. It was the occasion of the dedication of the “Service Flag.” This flag had been made by the ladies and 16 stars placed on it. Six of the boys these stars represent are somewhere in France. It is made of the most beautiful silk and is surely the product of loving hearts and hands.

November 1924 – Organized class number 2 of the Methodist Sunday school served a hot lunch to the school scholars and the public Thursday noon in the church basement, clearing more than \$10. These lunches will be served each Thursday for an indefinite time.

November 1931 – About 25 children of the local churches enjoyed a supper and party at the Methodist Church Tuesday evening, with the boys, losers in a contest, as hosts. Assisting at the party were Rev. and Mrs. Fred Wilde, Misses Etha Conley, Margarita Chapman and Mrs. B. Fox.

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